

STARBLAZER


SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 108

20p



STAR FORT ALPHA

STARBLAZER

A high-contrast, black and white illustration. At the top, the word 'STARBLAZER' is written in a large, bold, outlined font, curving across the upper portion of the image. Below the title, a large, dark, textured sphere represents a planet. A bright, glowing ring of light encircles the planet's equator. In the lower-left foreground, a cluster of jagged, dark, rocky terrain is visible. In the lower-right foreground, a large, bright, circular crater or moon is shown, featuring several smaller, dark spots on its surface.

STAR FORTS WERE BUILT TO PATROL THE FRINGES OF THE EARTH EMPIRE. THEY PROTECTED THE SPARSELY COLONISED PLANETS FROM THE MORBS, WHO WERE ALWAYS WAITING FOR THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK. WITH THEIR TROOPS AND SQUADRONS OF STARFIGHTERS THE FORTS COULD CONTAIN A WAR UNTIL HELP ARRIVED. OUT IN THE ORIONUS II SECTOR STAR FORT ALPHA MONITORED ITS AREA.

Star Fort Alpha

STAR FORT ALPHA, DEEP IN HOSTILE SPACE, HAD AN ARRANGED RENDEZVOUS WITH HER SISTER FORT, BETA —AND BETA WAS LATE.





ALPHA'S COMMANDER, ZOL, WAS A WORRIED MAN —

SHE'S WELL OVERDUE! STANDARD SEARCH PROCEDURE, WE'LL BACK-TRACK ALONG HER PATROL ZONE UNTIL WE FIND HER.



FOUR SPACIALS LATER THEY SIGHTED THE FIRST OF THE PLANETS IN BETA'S CARE —

3

I CAN'T MAKE CONTACT
WITH THE COLONISTS.

SEND A STARFIGHTER DOWN TO
INVESTIGATE AND PUT THE
STARFORT ON STANDBY ALERT!

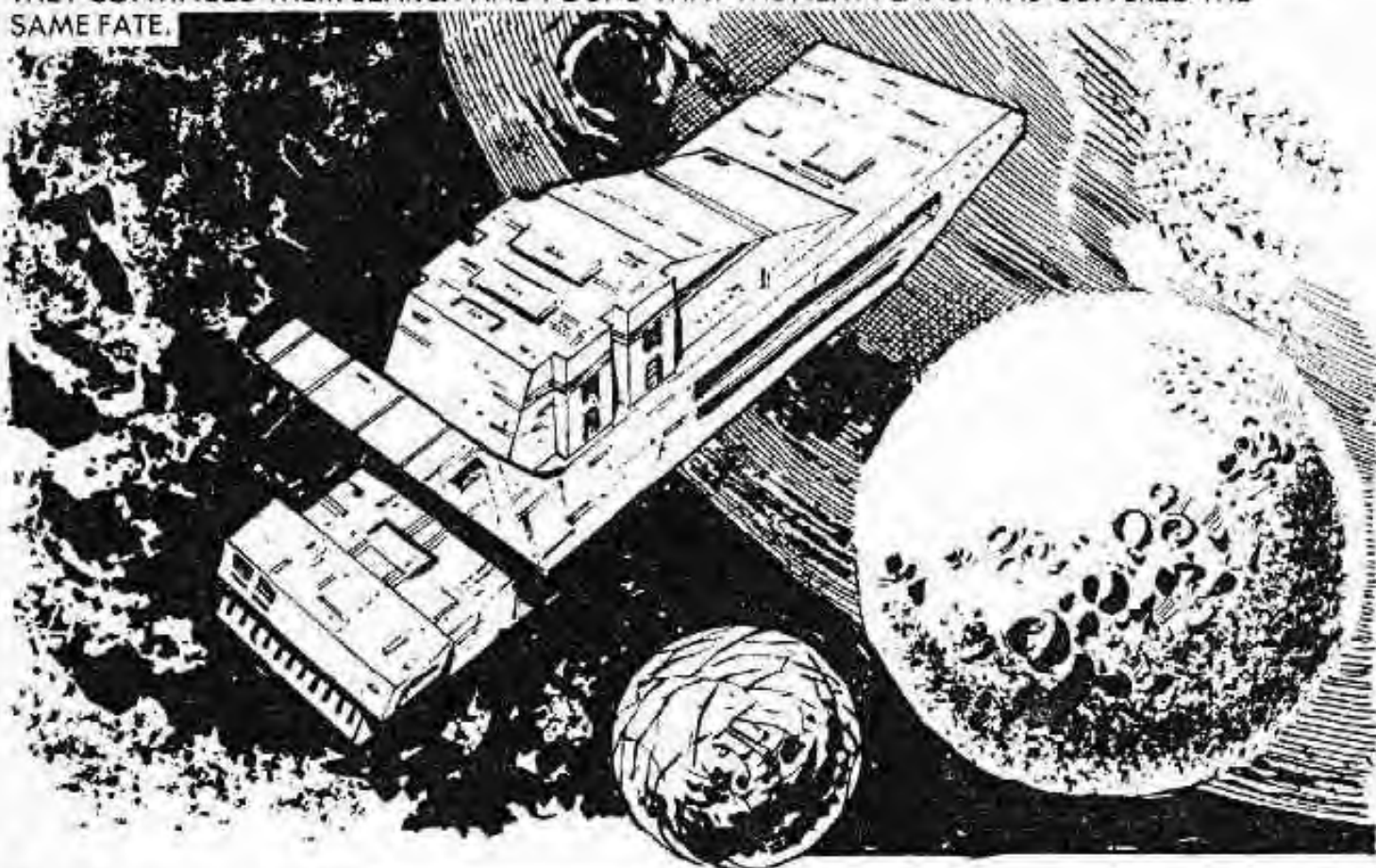


THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE. EVERYTHING'S
WRECKED—I'M GOING TO LAND.





THEY CONTINUED THEIR SEARCH AND FOUND THAT THE NEXT PLANET HAD SUFFERED THE SAME FATE.



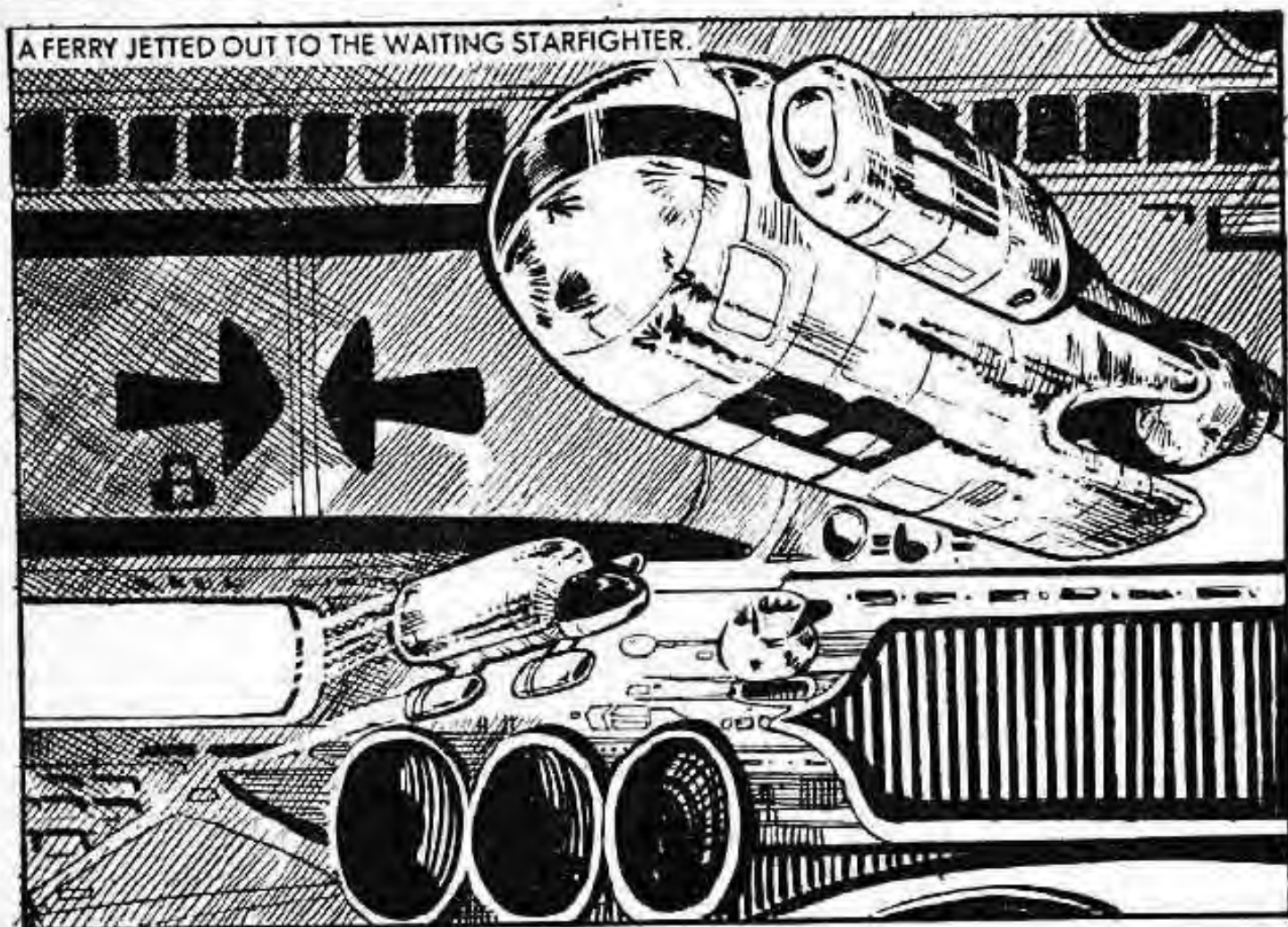
AN HOUR LATER THE SCANNERS FOUND A CONTACT.

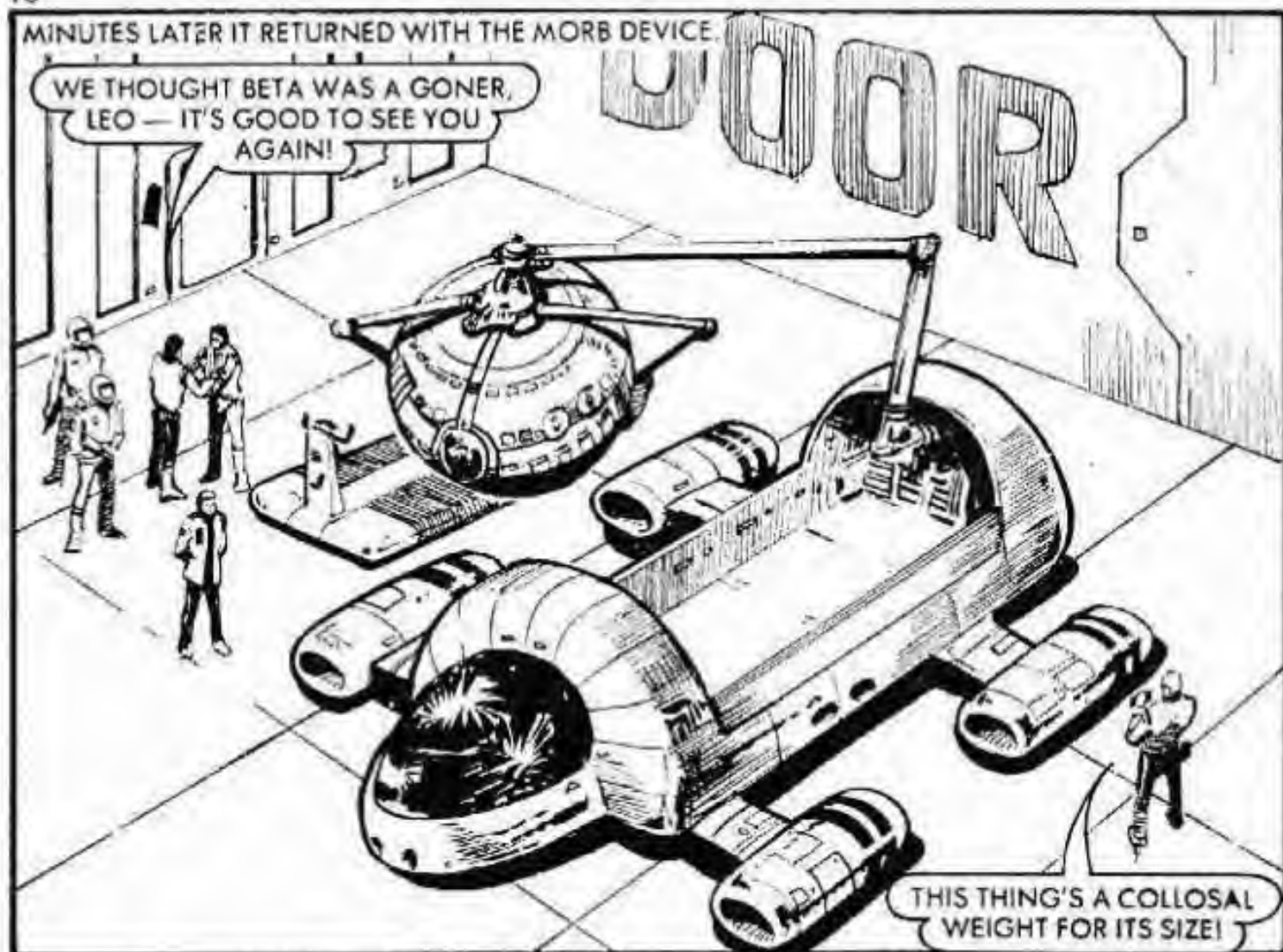
I CAN'T TELL WHAT IT IS, SIR, BUT IT'S
SEEN US AND IT'S HEADING OUR WAY.

PUT IT ON SCREEN WHEN
IT COMES INTO RANGE!









SHARK GRABBED A BLASTER AND FIRED

YEAH! AND I'VE GOT A NEW TYPE
OF BROTHER!

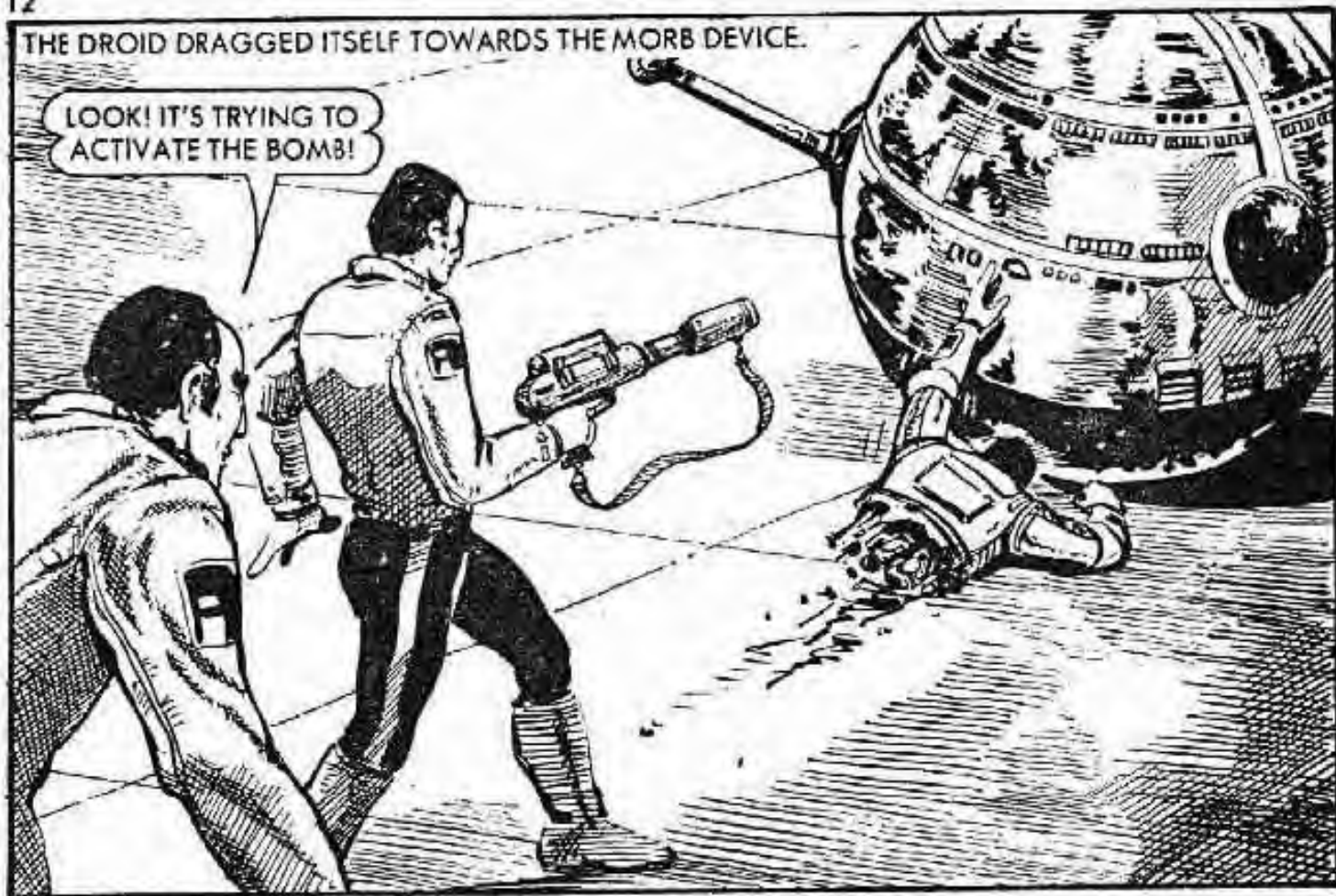


IT'S AN ANDROID!



THE DROID DRAGGED ITSELF TOWARDS THE MORB DEVICE.

LOOK! IT'S TRYING TO
ACTIVATE THE BOMB!



NOW IT'S NOT!

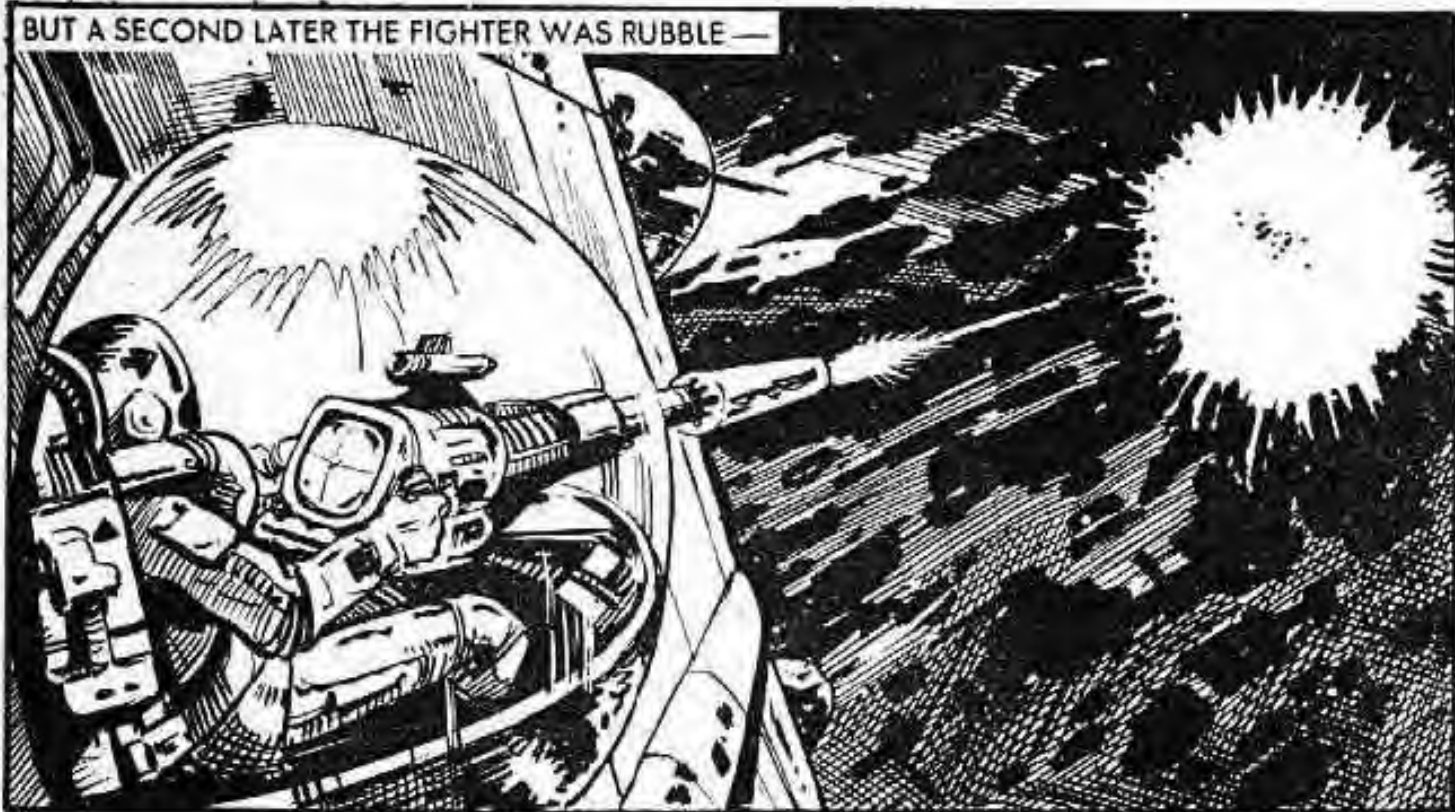
ALERT! DEFENCES DESTROY
THAT BETA FIGHTER! IT'S
HOSTILE — REPEAT —
HOSTILE!



BUT THE ALARM WAS TOO LATE. THE FIGHTER'S CANNON SHATTERED THE MAIN ENGINE.



BUT A SECOND LATER THE FIGHTER WAS RUBBLE —

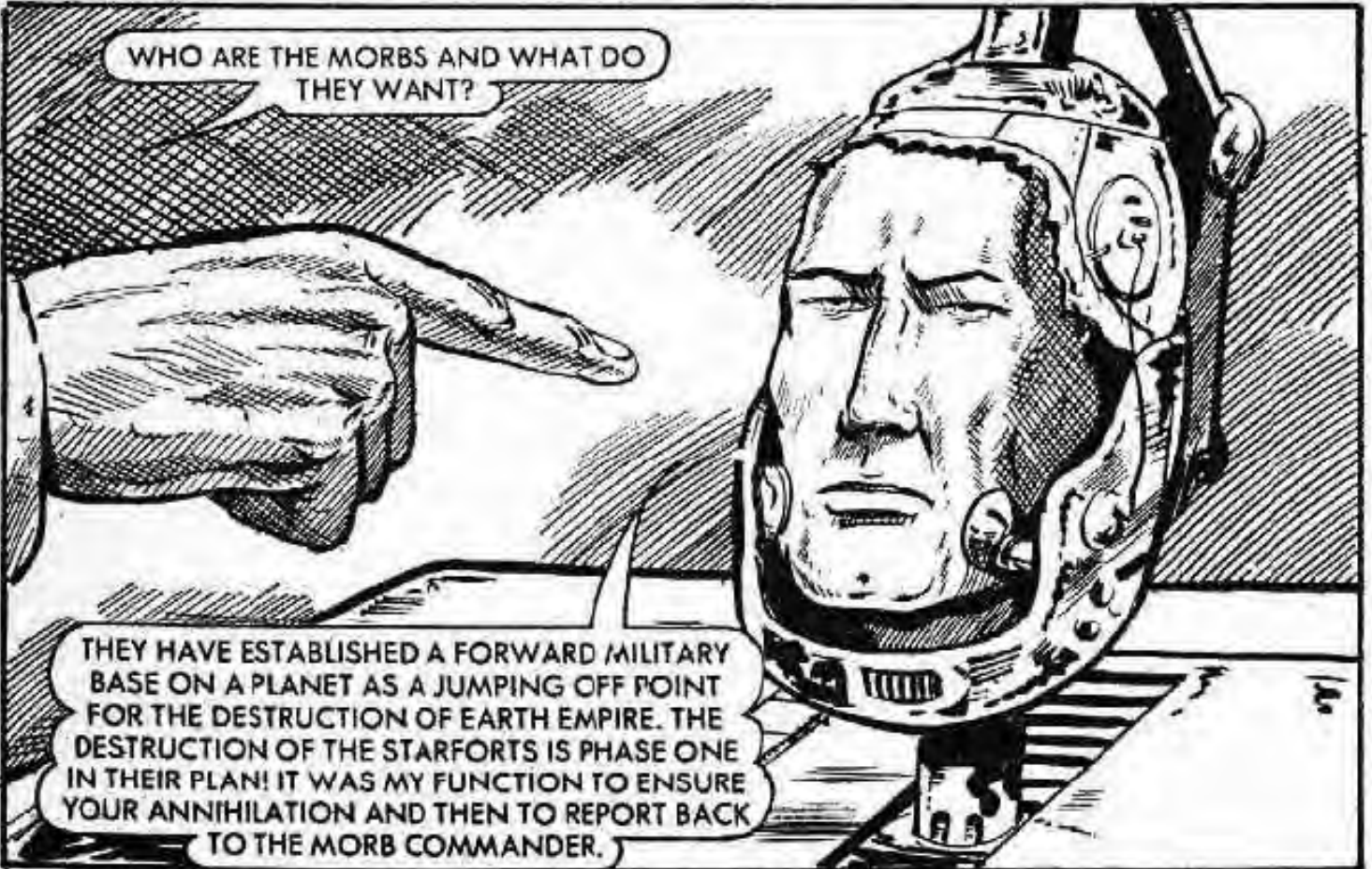




THE DEVICE IS A MINI BLACK HOLE! ONCE IT IS RELEASED NOTHING CAN STOP IT. THE MORE IT SWALLOWS THE BIGGER AND STRONGER IT WILL GET. IT WAS ONE CERTAIN WAY OF GETTING SUCH A WEAPON BACK TO EARTH. IT WOULD CONSUME YOUR PLANET AND THE MORB WOULD BE UNQUESTIONED RULERS.



WHO ARE THE MORBS AND WHAT DO THEY WANT?



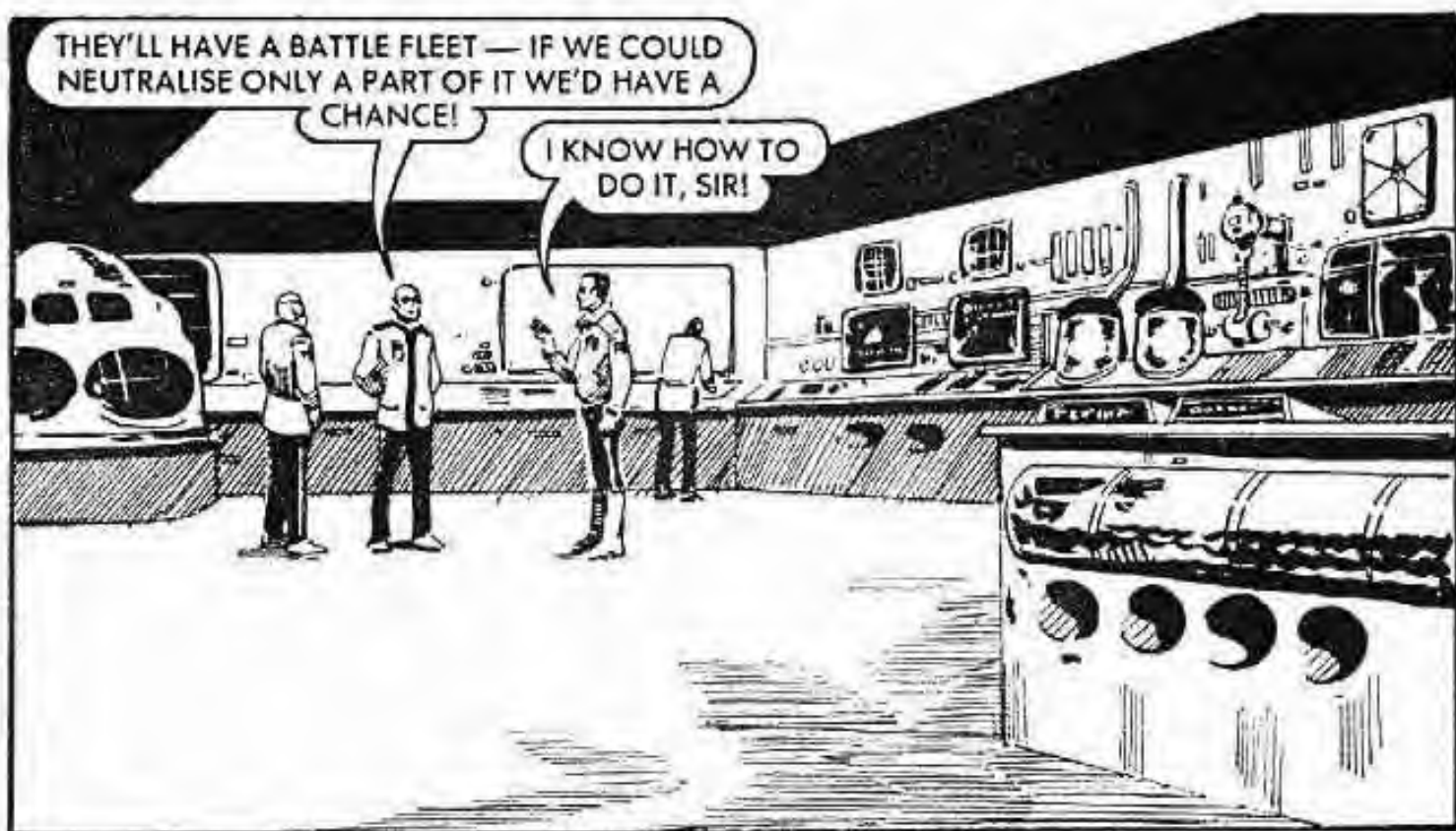
THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED A FORWARD MILITARY BASE ON A PLANET AS A JUMPING OFF POINT FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH EMPIRE. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE STARFORTS IS PHASE ONE IN THEIR PLAN! IT WAS MY FUNCTION TO ENSURE YOUR ANNIHILATION AND THEN TO REPORT BACK TO THE MORB COMMANDER.

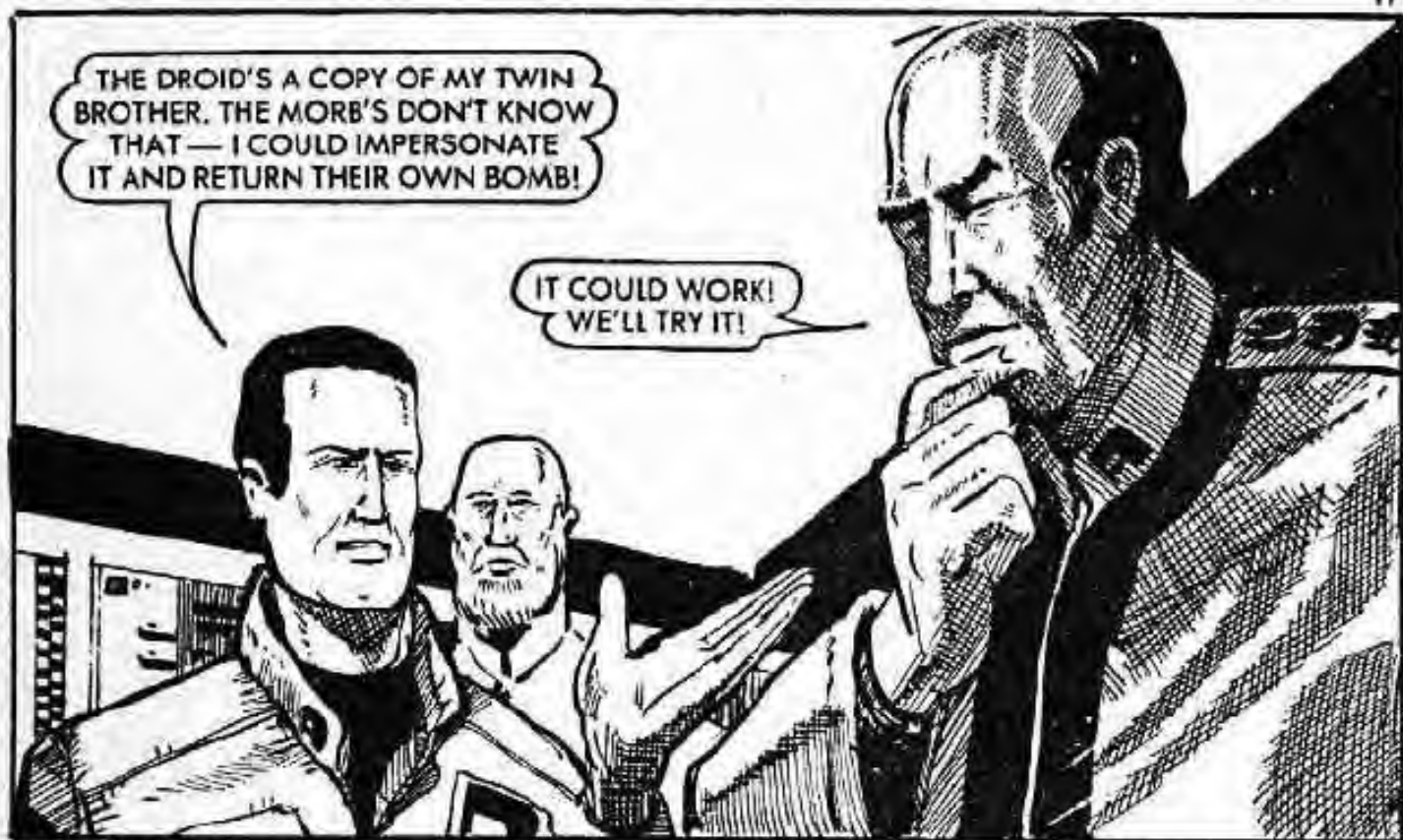
THE DROID FED THE LOCATION OF THE MORB BASE INTO THE STARFORT'S COMPUTERS.

WE HAVE A PROBLEM, SIR! THE FORT WAS TRAVELLING FAST WHEN WE LOST OUR ENGINE. WE CAN'T STOP OR STEER AND IN TWENTY HOURS WE'LL BE IN SENSOR RANGE OF THE MORBS! WITH OUR DEFLECTOR SHIELDS GONE WE'RE ALMOST CERTAIN TO LOSE A BATTLE!

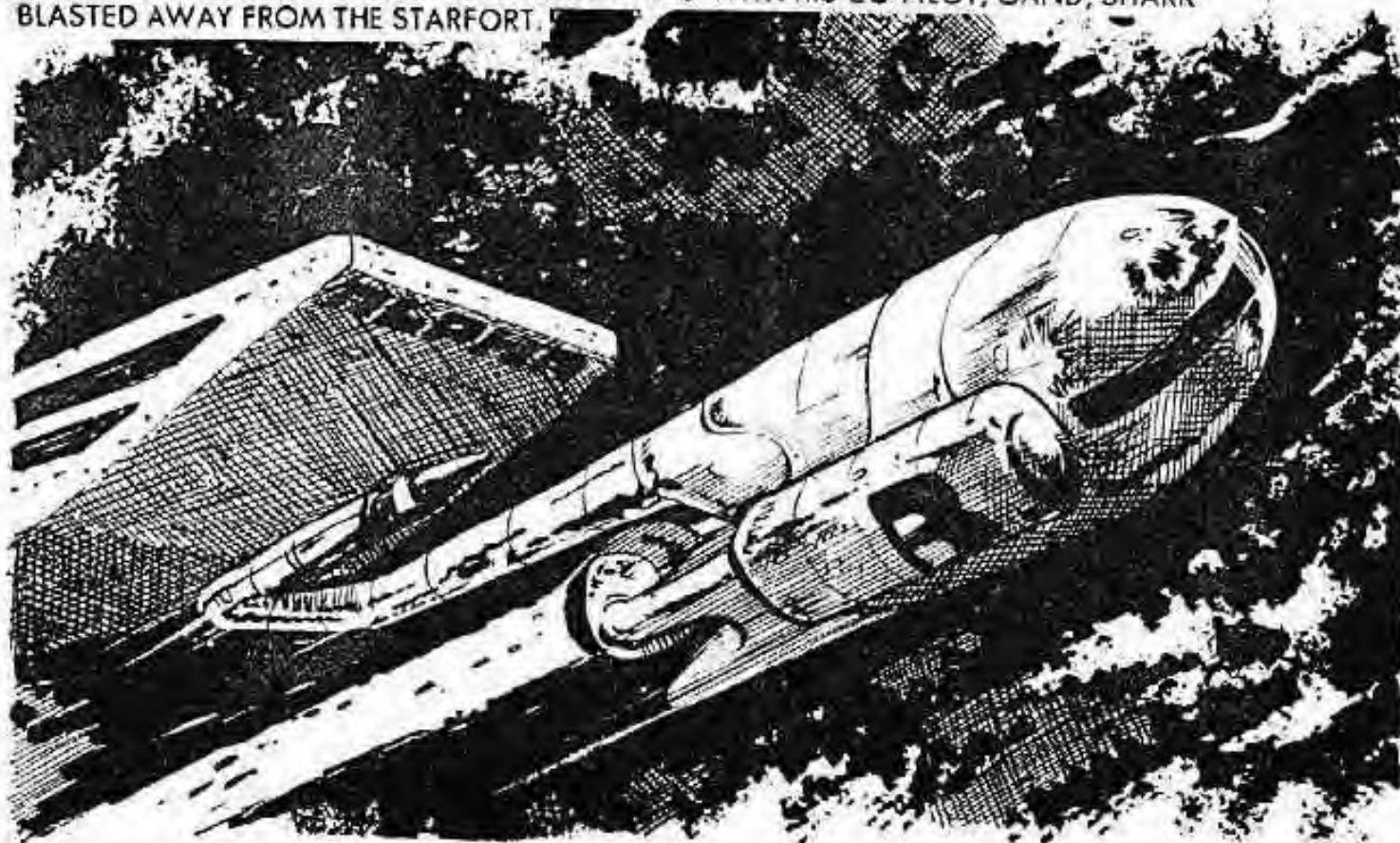
THEY'LL HAVE A BATTLE FLEET — IF WE COULD NEUTRALISE ONLY A PART OF IT WE'D HAVE A CHANCE!

I KNOW HOW TO DO IT, SIR!





A COPY OF THE BETA FIGHTER WAS RIGGED AND WITH HIS CO-PILOT, GAND, SHARK
BLASTED AWAY FROM THE STARFORT.



HOURS LATER THEY WERE IN VID-RANGE OF THE MORB PLANET.

THEY'VE SEEN US! THEY'RE SENDING
INTERCEPTORS.

TIME FOR ME TO GET
OUT OF SIGHT!





AS THE STARFIGHTER DROPPED THROUGH
THE SKY SHARK BEGAN TO TWIST IT ABOUT.

YOU ARE HEADING OFF COURSE.
RETURN TO DESIGNATED
FLIGHTPATH IMMEDIATELY!

I CANNOT OBEY. THERE IS A
MALFUNCTION IN THE CONTROL
SYSTEM!

THE ANDROID HAS CRASHED INTO
THE SEA!



TEN THOUSAND FEET DOWN THE STARFIGHTER CAME TO A HALT —

ARE YOU OK, GAND?

YEAH! BUT DID YOU HAVE TO CRASH
SO REALISTICALLY?



THE BOMB'S AUTO-TRIGGER IS STILL
WORKING. LET'S GET THE SUB-FLY
OUT — THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME
LEFT!

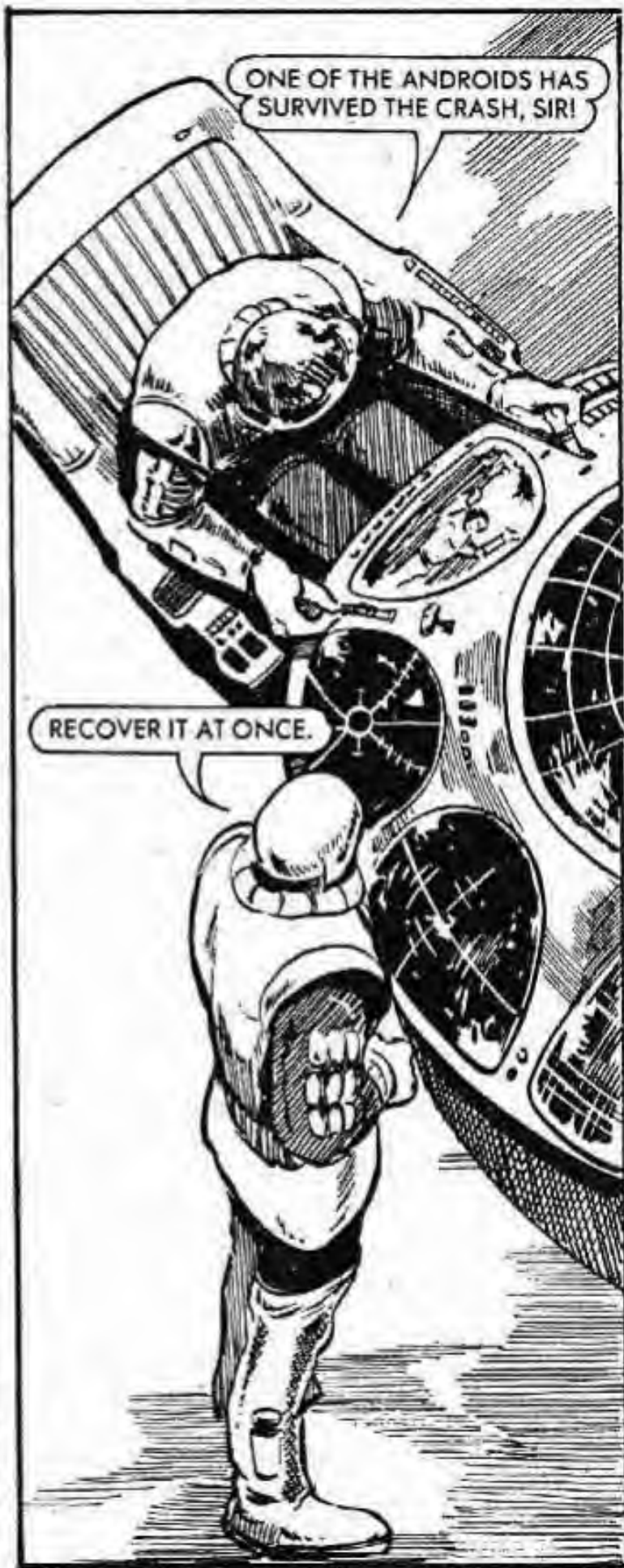


LEAVING THE BOMB TO ITS COUNTDOWN TO DEATH, THEY LEFT THE SHIP FROM THE
FORWARD MISSILE BAY, AND HEADED UPWARDS.

ZOL'S ARRANGED FOR US TO BE PICKED
UP — MAKE THE RENDEZVOUS ON YOUR
OWN IF I'M LATE!



SHARK SWAM THE FINAL FEW FEET WHILE
GAND WENT INTO HIDING —



SHARK WAS FLOWN STRAIGHT TO THE MORB BASE —



WHERE HE TOLD THE COMMANDER ABOUT ALPHA'S DESTRUCTION.

AT LAST WE HAVE CREATED A GAP IN THE EARTH'S DEFENCES! NOW WE CAN TAKE OUR FLEET INTO THEIR SPACE AND CUT OUT ALL RESISTANCE!

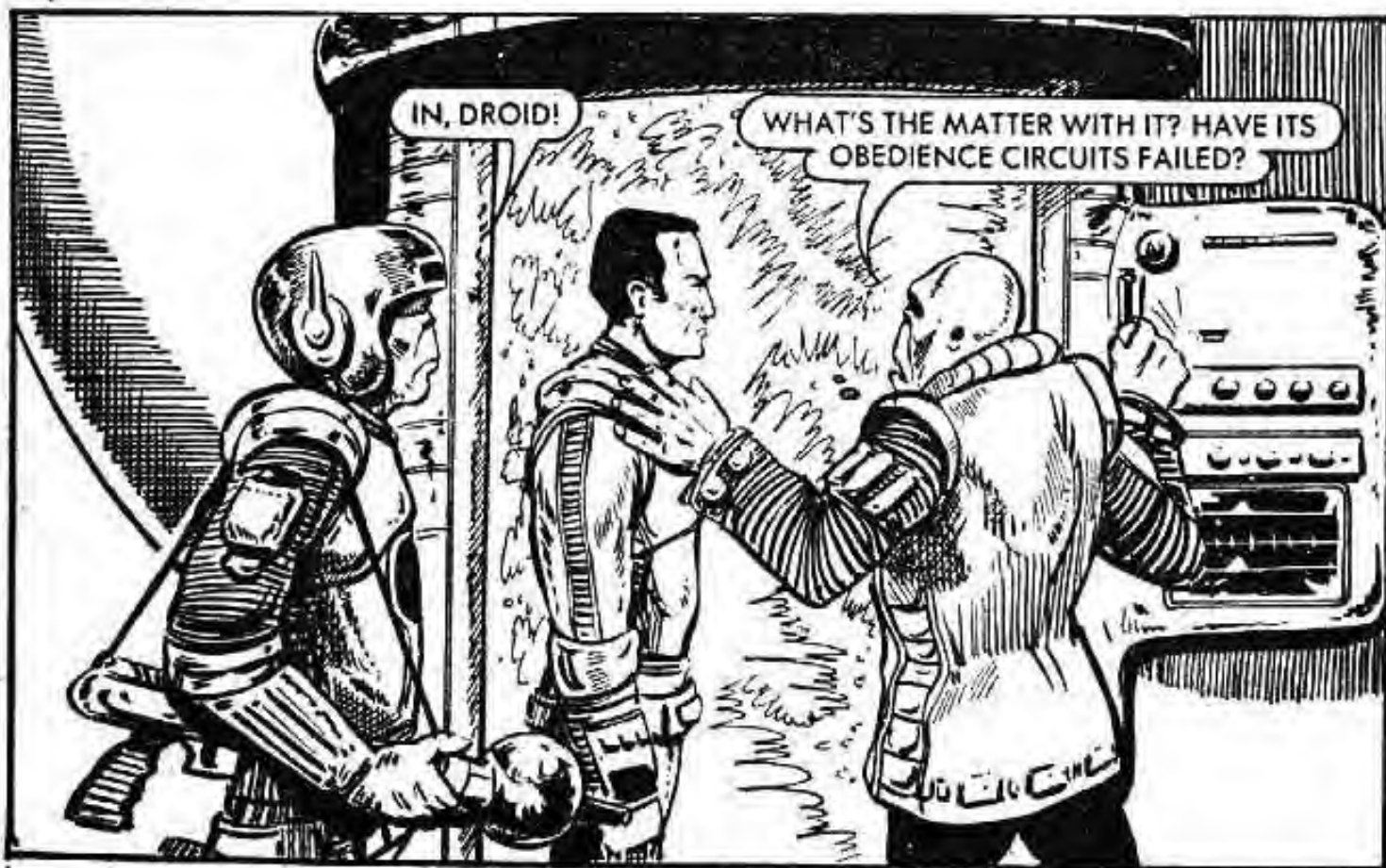


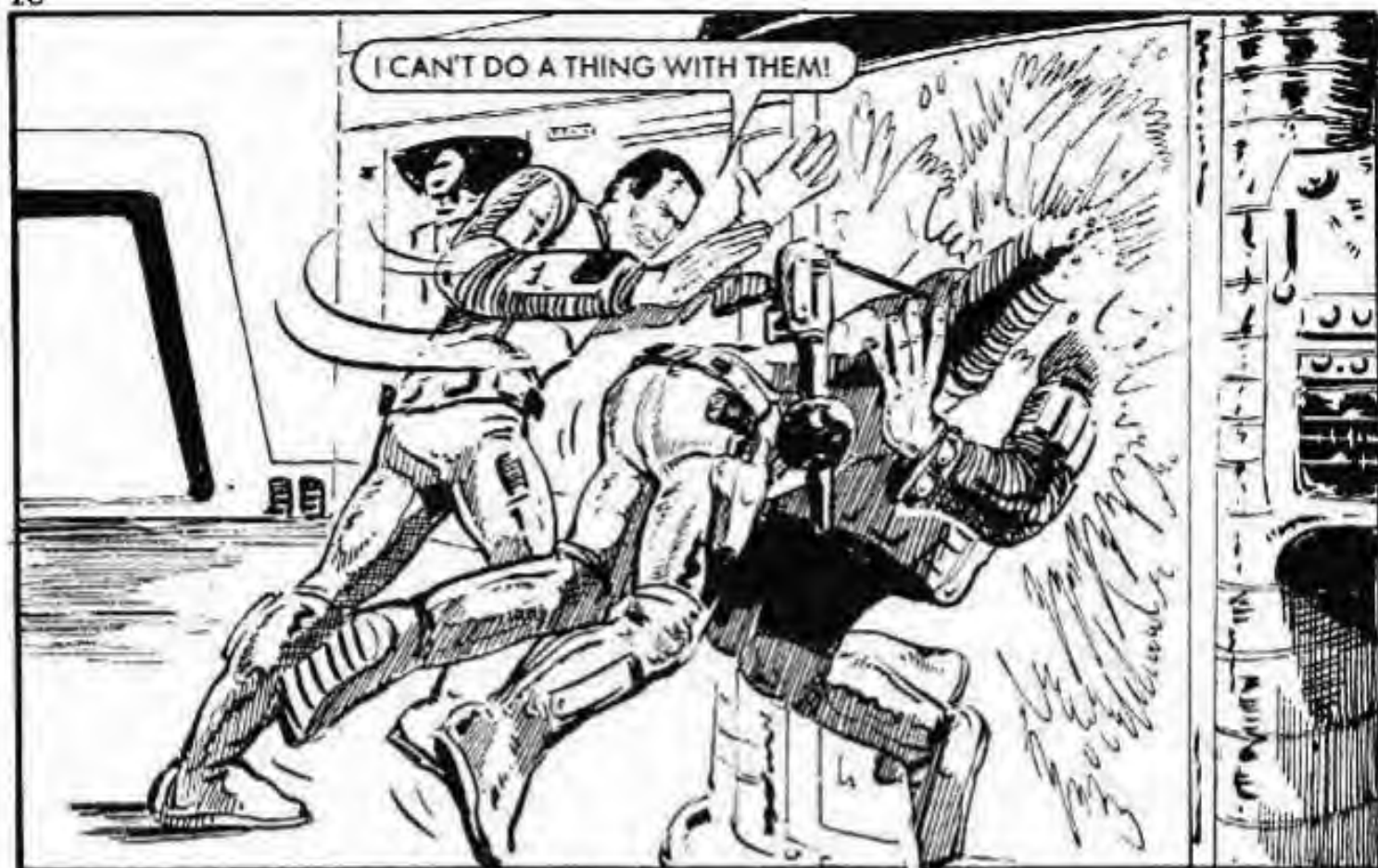
DO WE HAVE FURTHER NEED OF THE ANDROID?



AS SHARK WAS MARCHED THROUGH THE BUILDING HIS MIND WAS SEARCHING FOR A TRACE OF HIS TWIN.



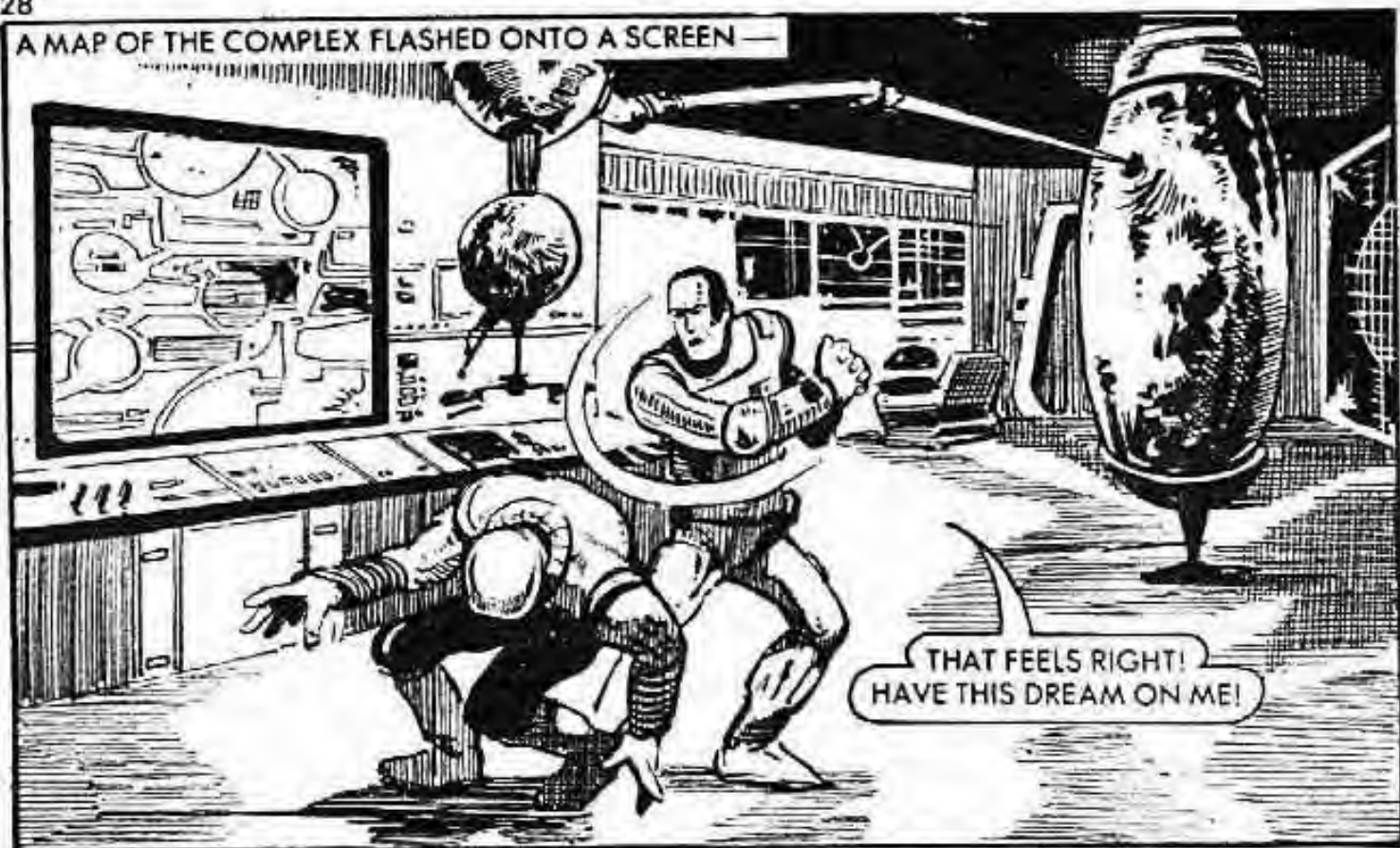




THE REMAINING TECHNICIAN WAS NO MATCH FOR SHARK.



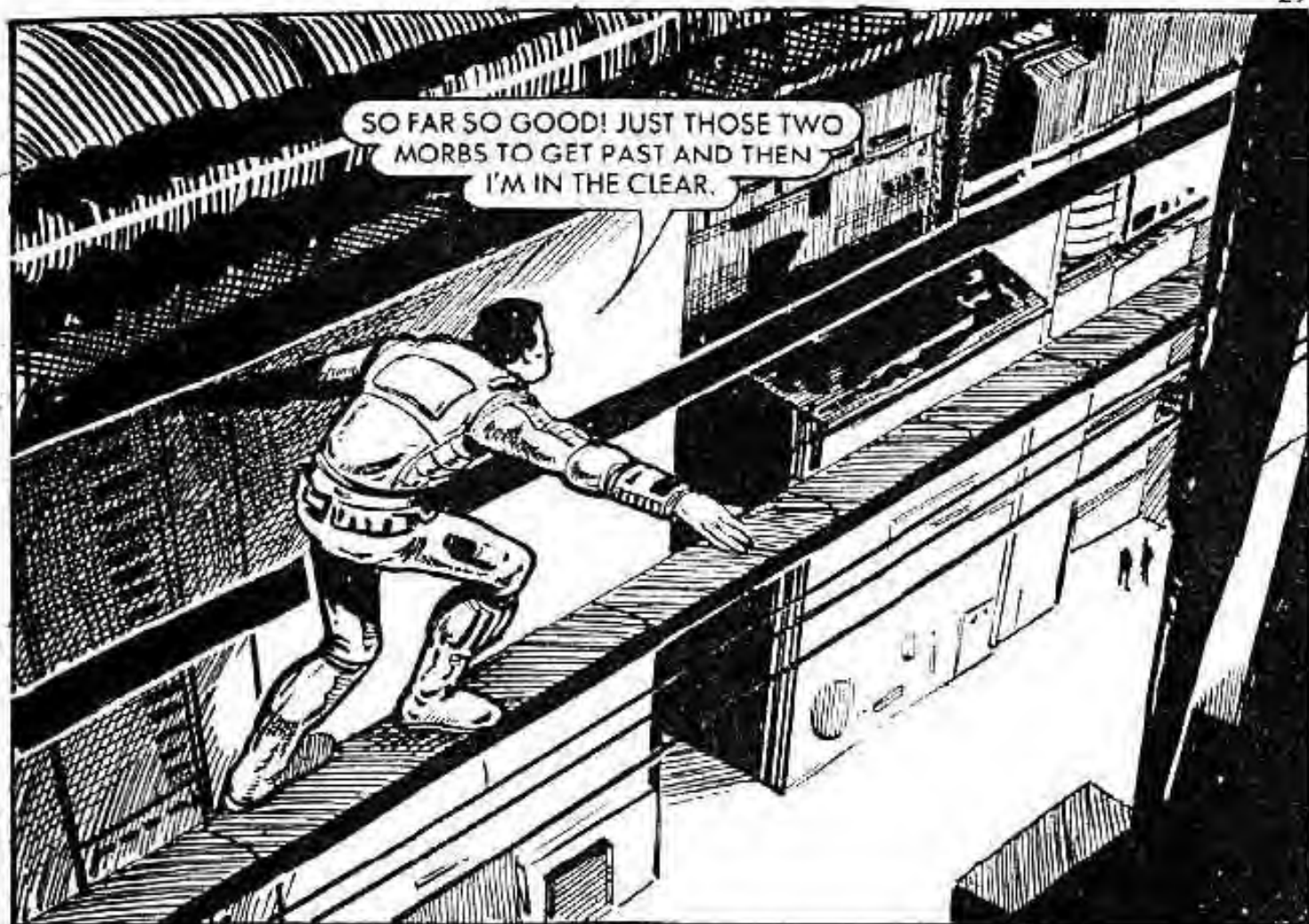
A MAP OF THE COMPLEX FLASHED ONTO A SCREEN —



SHARK FOUND HIMSELF IN A LARGE BUILDING.

IT'S CRAWLING WITH MORBS! I'LL
HAVE TO TAKE THE HIGH ROAD PAST
THEM!





SUDDENLY A TENTACLE WHIPPED ROUND HIS THROAT.



THE ROBOT DRAGGED THE STRUGGLING SPACER UP TOWARDS ITS WASTE DISPOSAL SECTION.



BUT IT WAS THE ROBOT THAT HAD BEEN HIT AND SHARK WAS LEFT HANGING FROM A CABLE.

GOT TO CUT THIS QUICK
OR I'M A GONER!

THE CABLE SEVERED AND HE SWUNG
STRAIGHT AT THE MORBS —

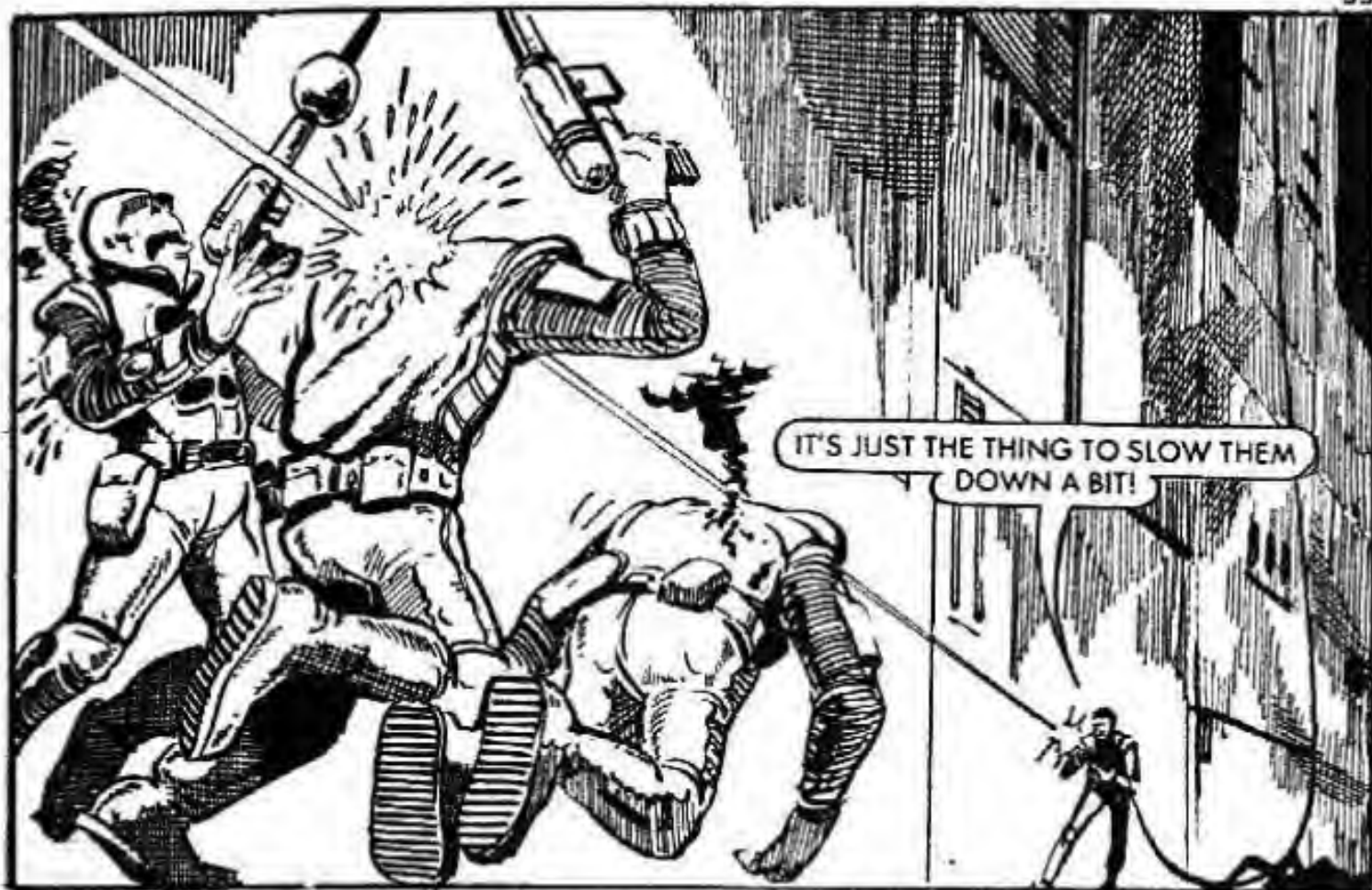
I HOPE THIS WORKS.



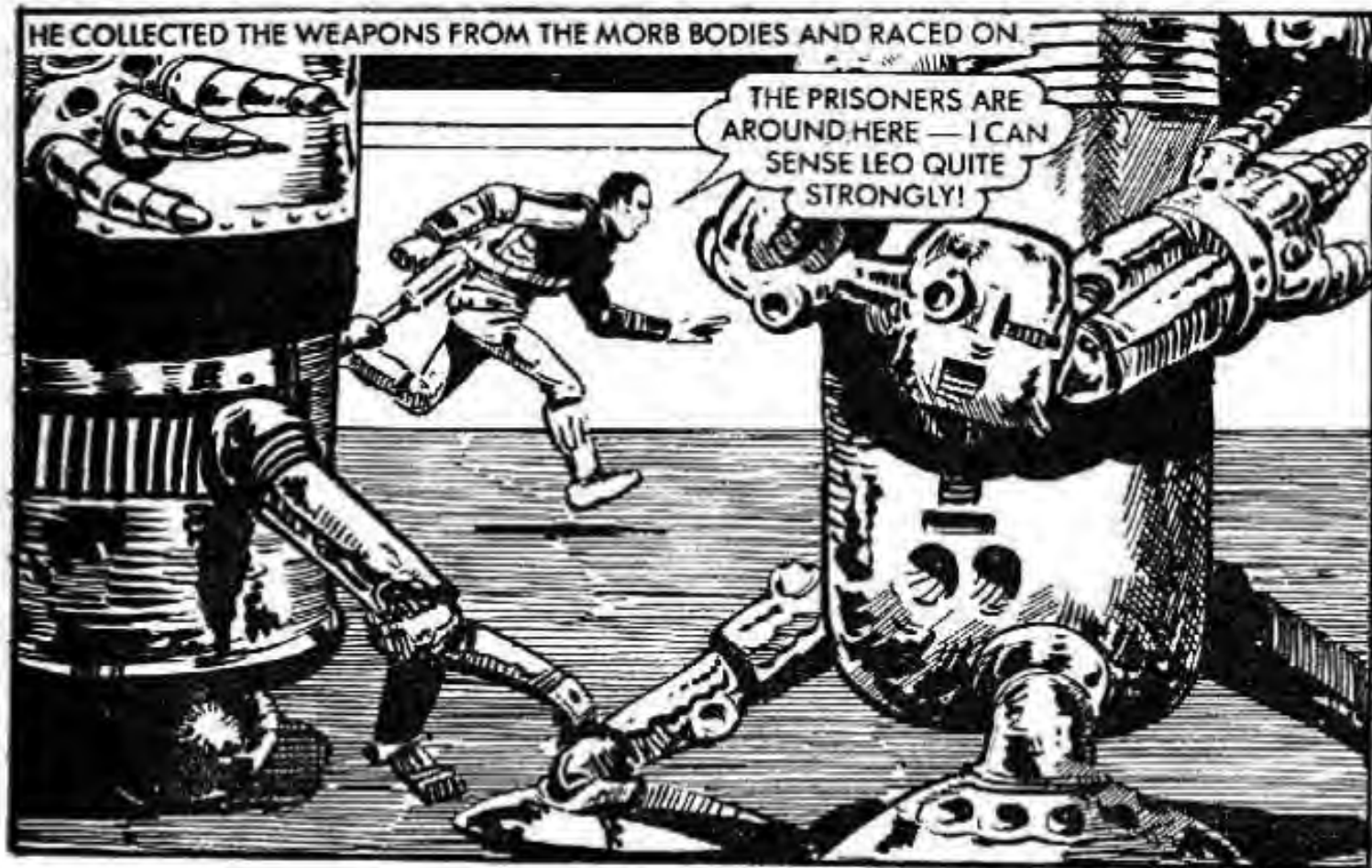


AS SHARK SCRAMBLED TO HIS FEET, THE CABLE LASHED PAST HIM, A BUZZING LIGHT BEAM STREAMING FROM ITS SEVERED END.





HE COLLECTED THE WEAPONS FROM THE MORB BODIES AND RACED ON.





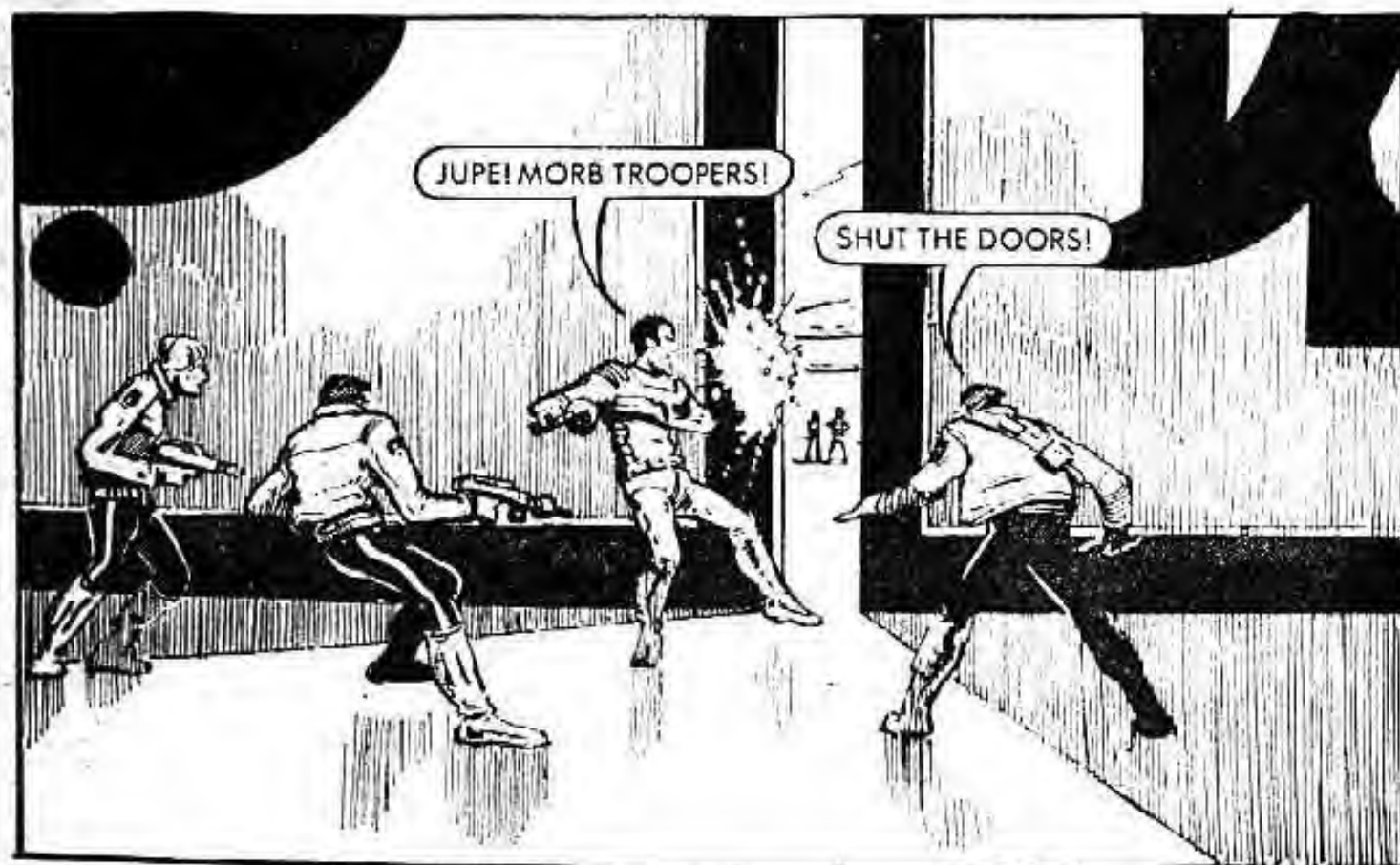
ARMED WITH THE MORB WEAPONS, THEY MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE BUILDING COMPLEX TOWARDS AN EXIT.

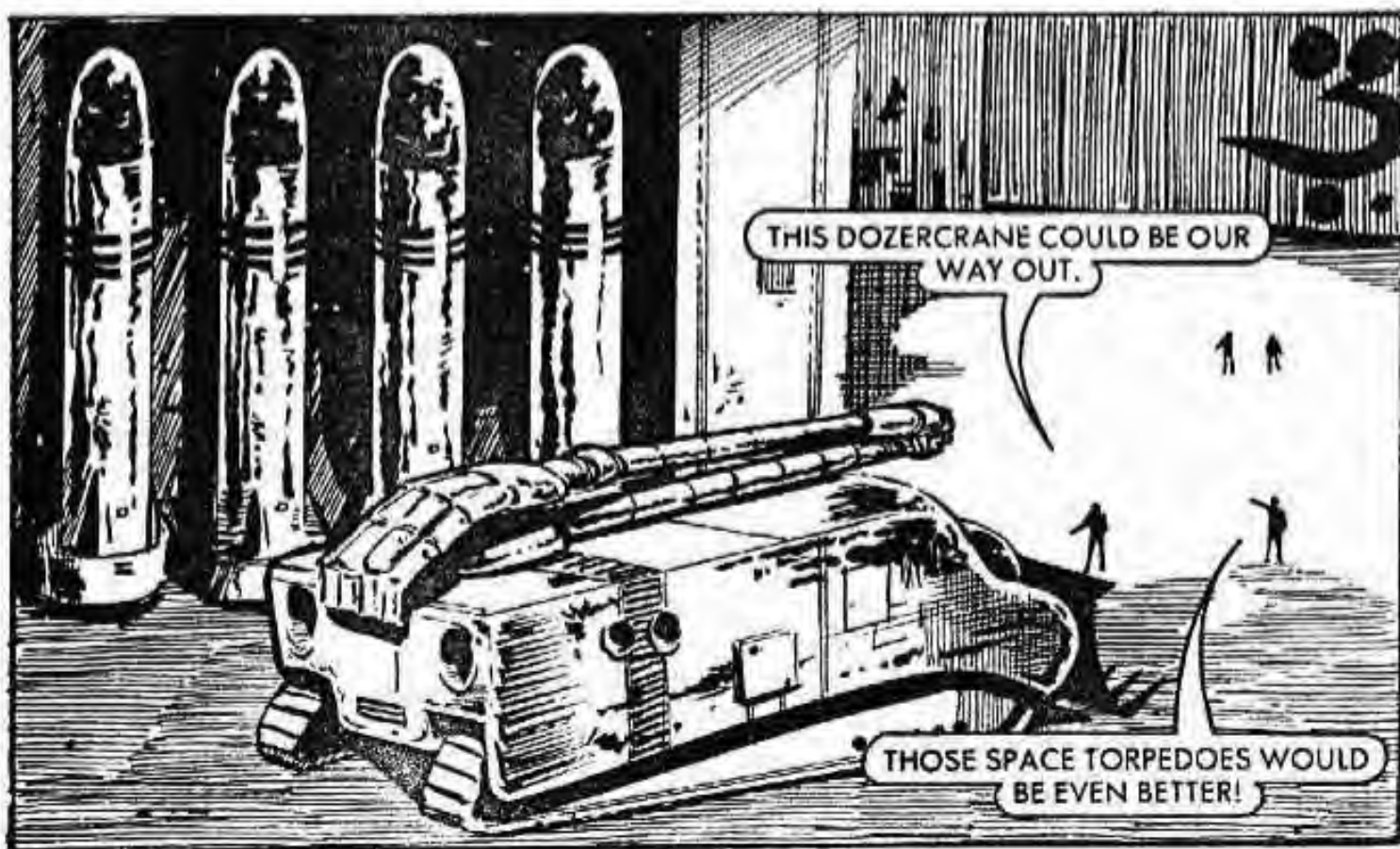
I'VE GOT
TRANSPORT WAITING.



JUPE! MORB TROOPERS!

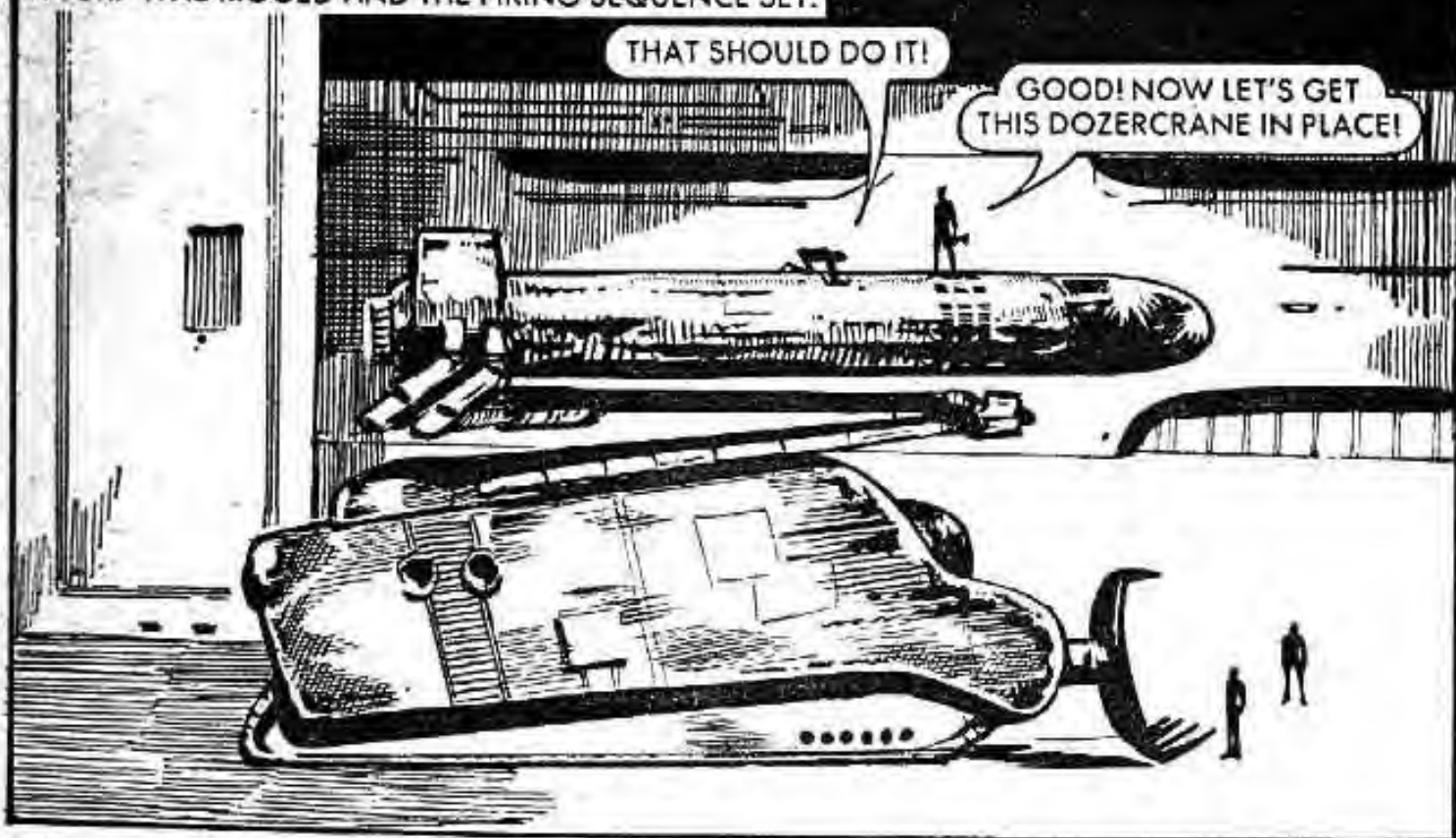
SHUT THE DOORS!





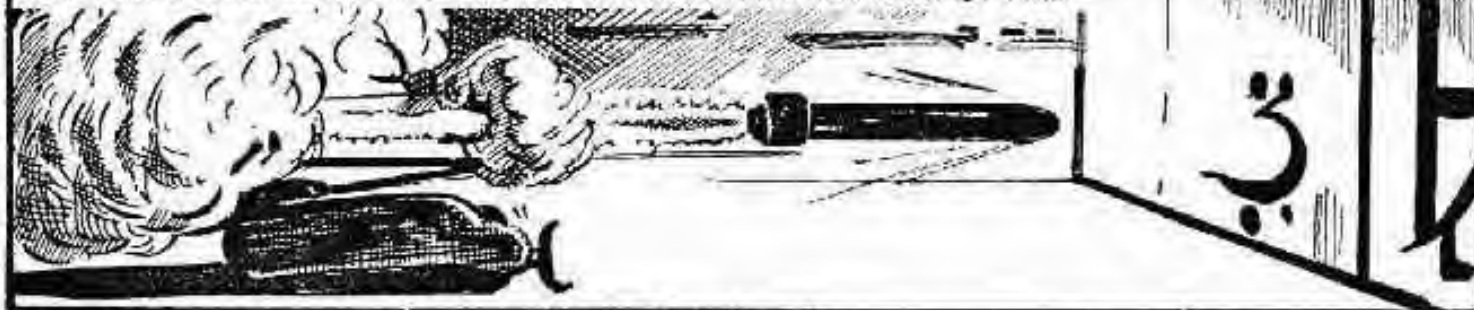


A TORP WAS RIGGED AND THE FIRING SEQUENCE SET.

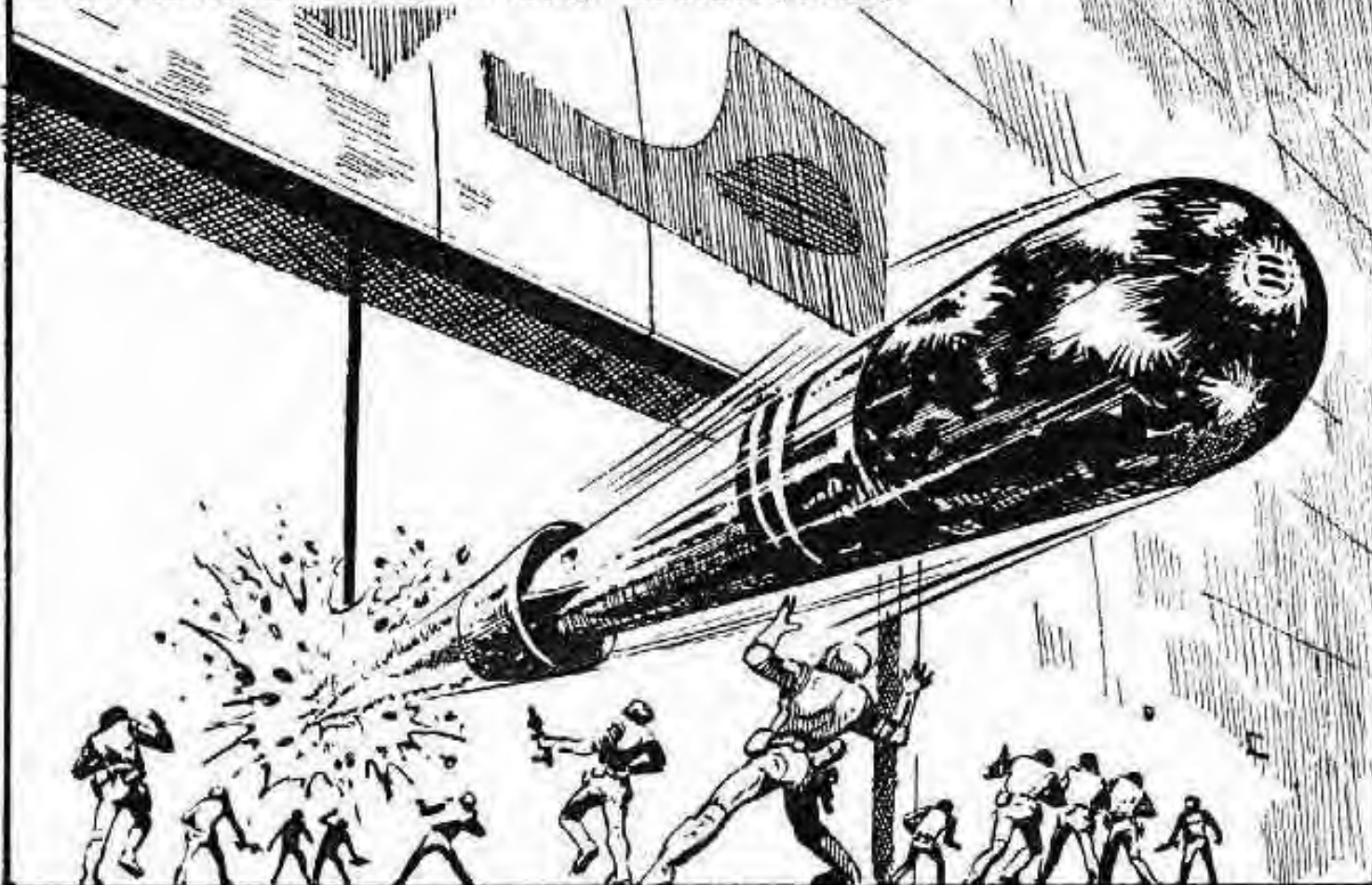




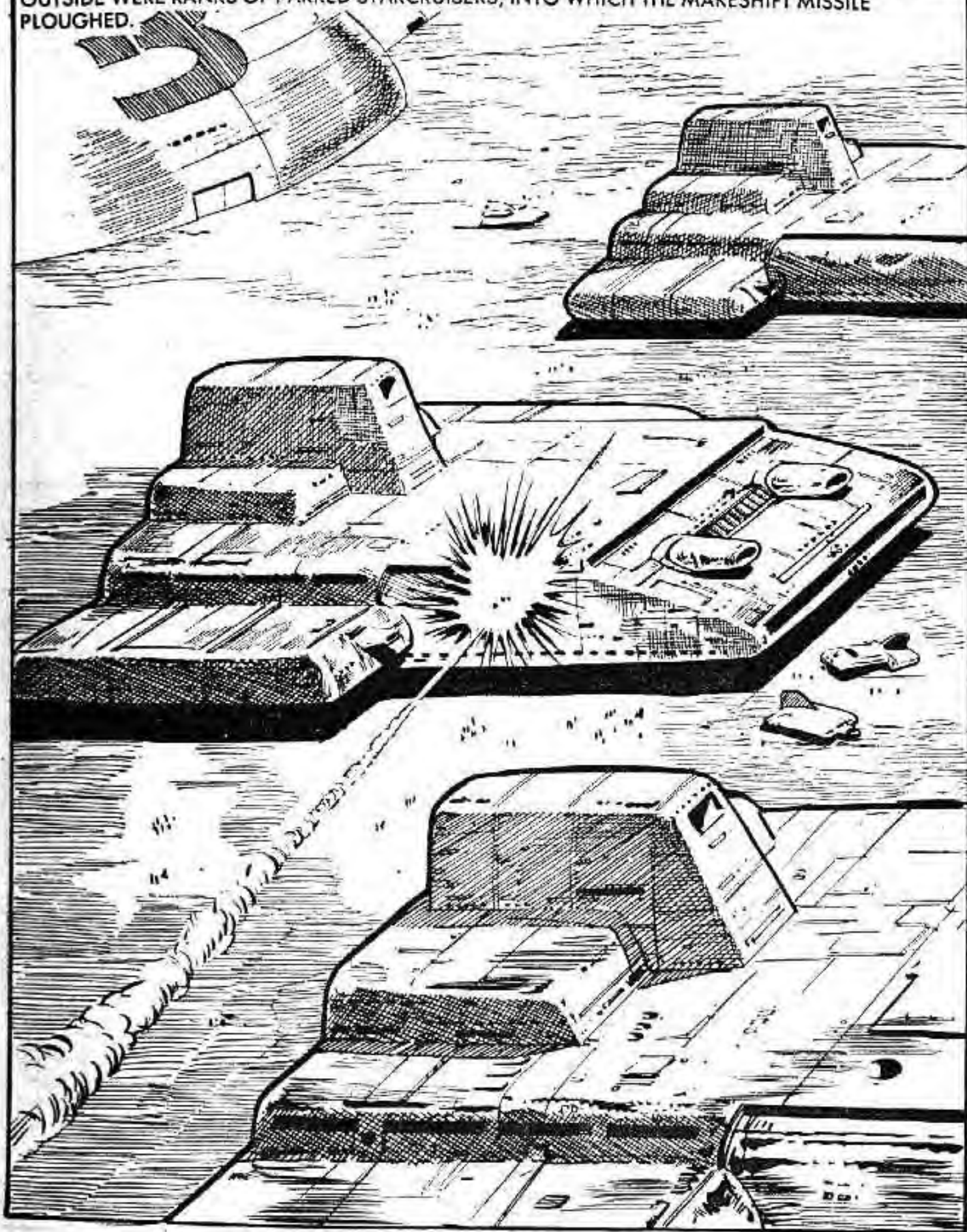
THE TORP'S ENGINE IGNITED BLASTING IT FORWARD ON A JET OF FIRE—



—TO PUNCH A HOLE STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CLOSED DOORS.

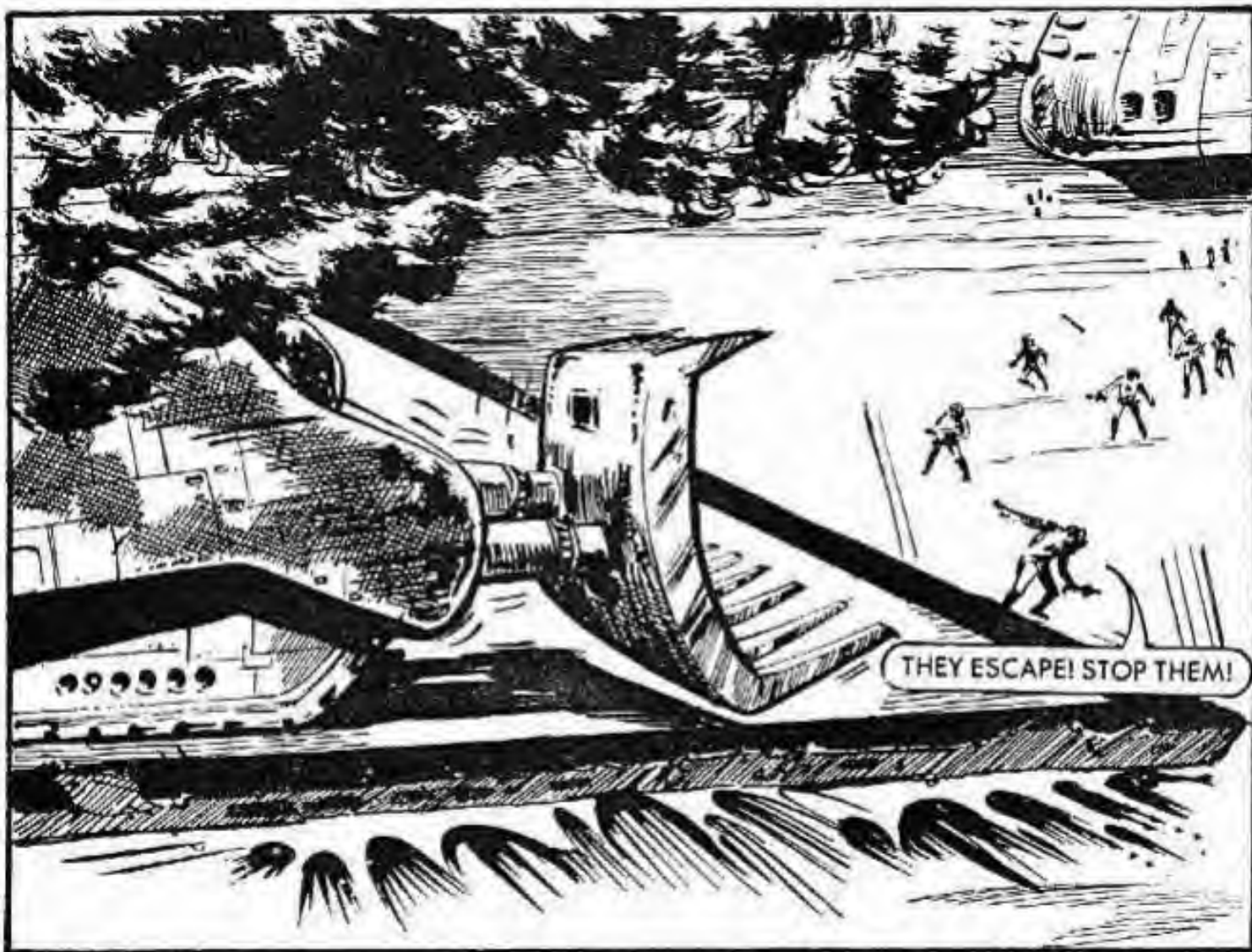


OUTSIDE WERE RANKS OF PARKED STARCROISERS, INTO WHICH THE MAKESHIFT MISSILE
PLOUGHED.

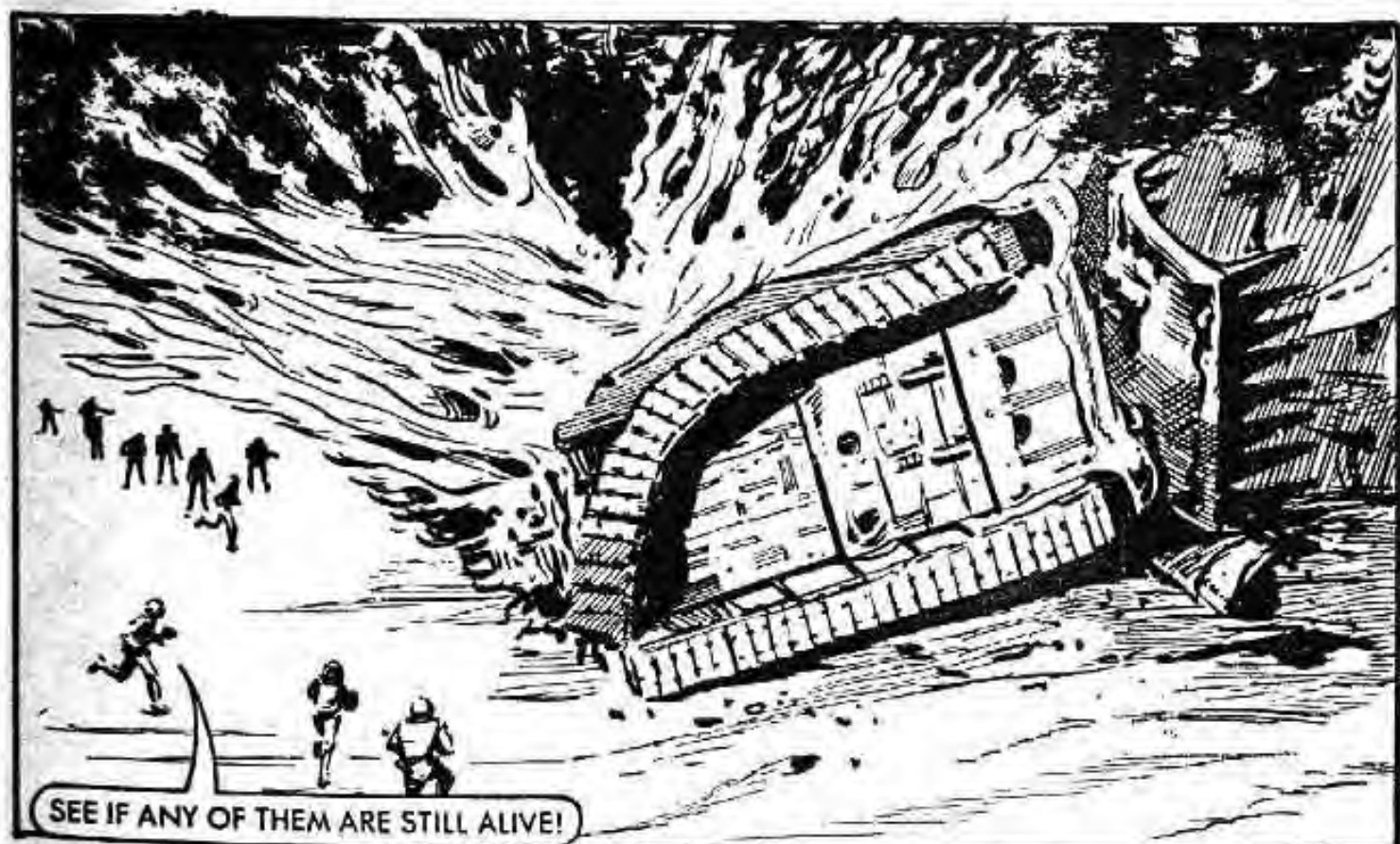


A FOG OF DEADLY NERVE GAS WAS RELEASED—

LEE FOR YOUR LIV...



THEY ESCAPE! STOP THEM!



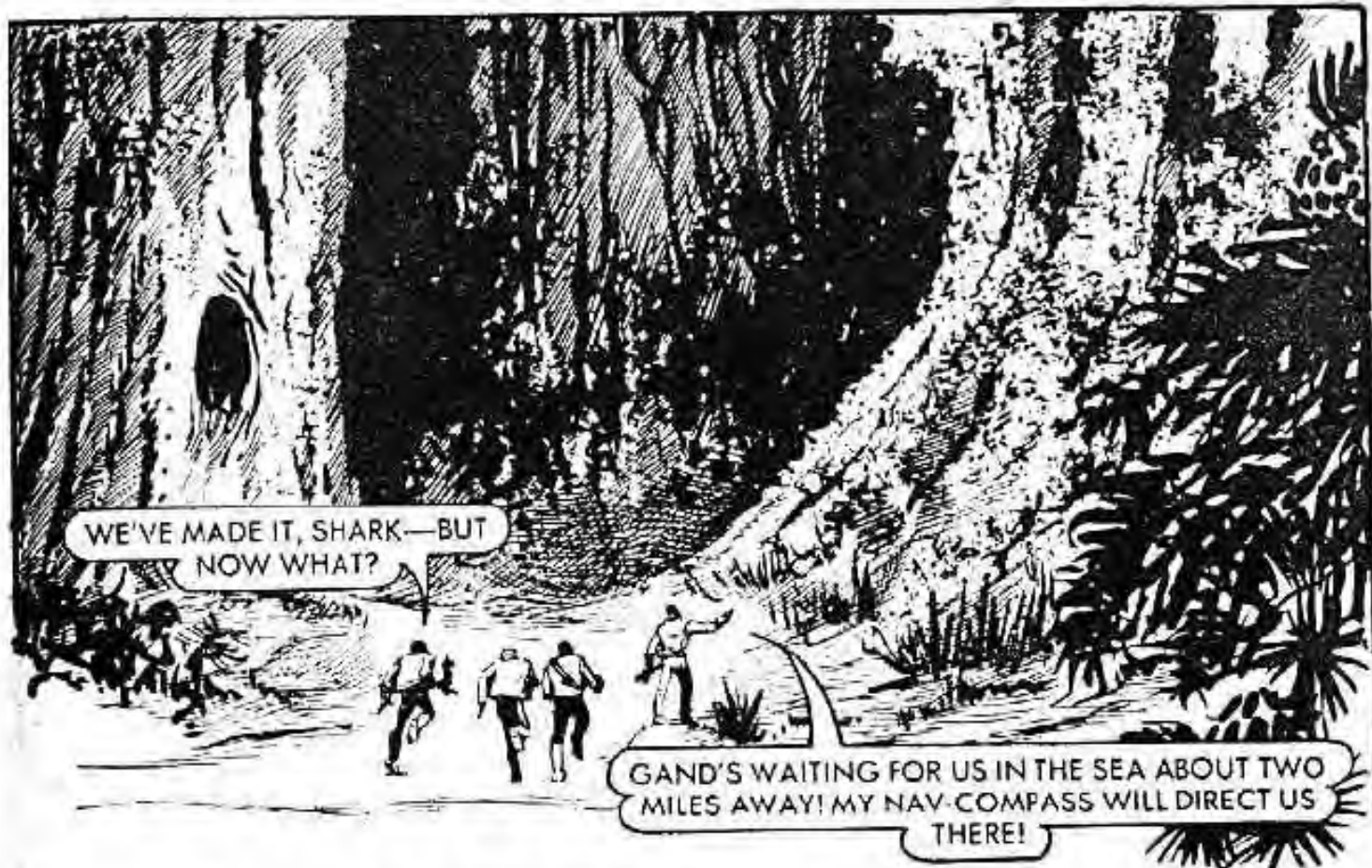
AS THE MORBS SWARMED OVER THE CRASHED DOZERCRAANE, THE FOUR SPACERS RACED FROM THE SHELTER OF THE BUILDING.

THE NERVE GAS IS DRIFTING THIS WAY!

GET OUT OF SIGHT
BEHIND THESE SHIPS!

THEY ZAPPED THE FEW MORBS THAT GOT IN THEIR WAY.

THE JUNGLE'S
UP AHEAD!



SUDDENLY—

JUPE! THEY MUST BE ABOVE
US IN A SKIMMER!

AND THEY'RE USING
INFRA-RED TO SPOT US!

ONE OF THEM IS DEAD, BUT THE
OTHERS ARE MOVING TOO
ERRATICALLY TO BE HIT!

WE WILL FOLLOW THEM—THEY
WILL SOON TIRE!




THEY RACED ON KEEPING JUST AHEAD OF THE FLAMES—

GET READY TO PICK
US UP, GAND.

THEY'RE WAITING
FOR US!

KEEP MOVING! JUMP
OVER THE CLIFF!

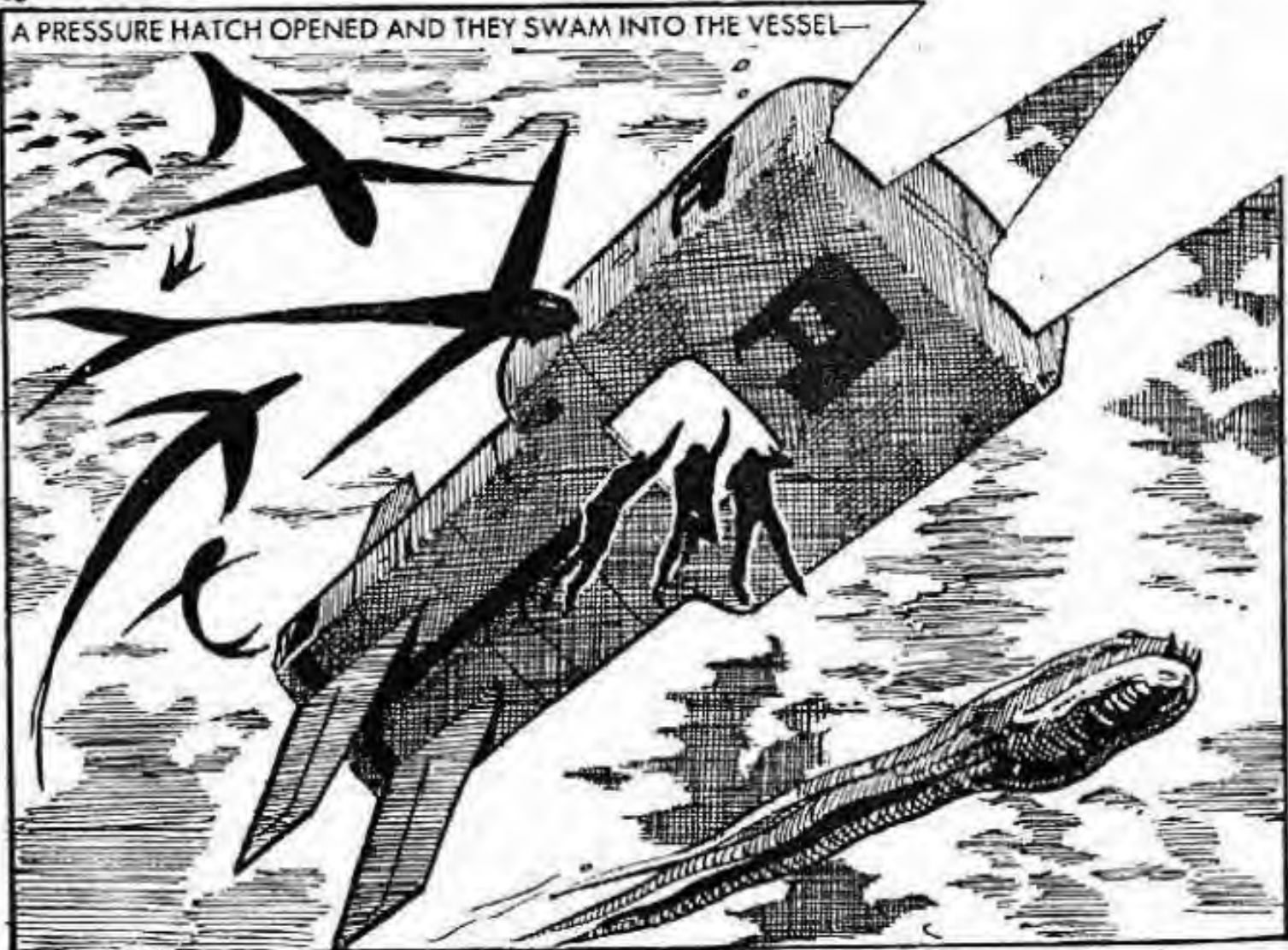


SHOOT THEM,
YOU FOOL!

I CAN'T! THEY
FALL TOO FAST!

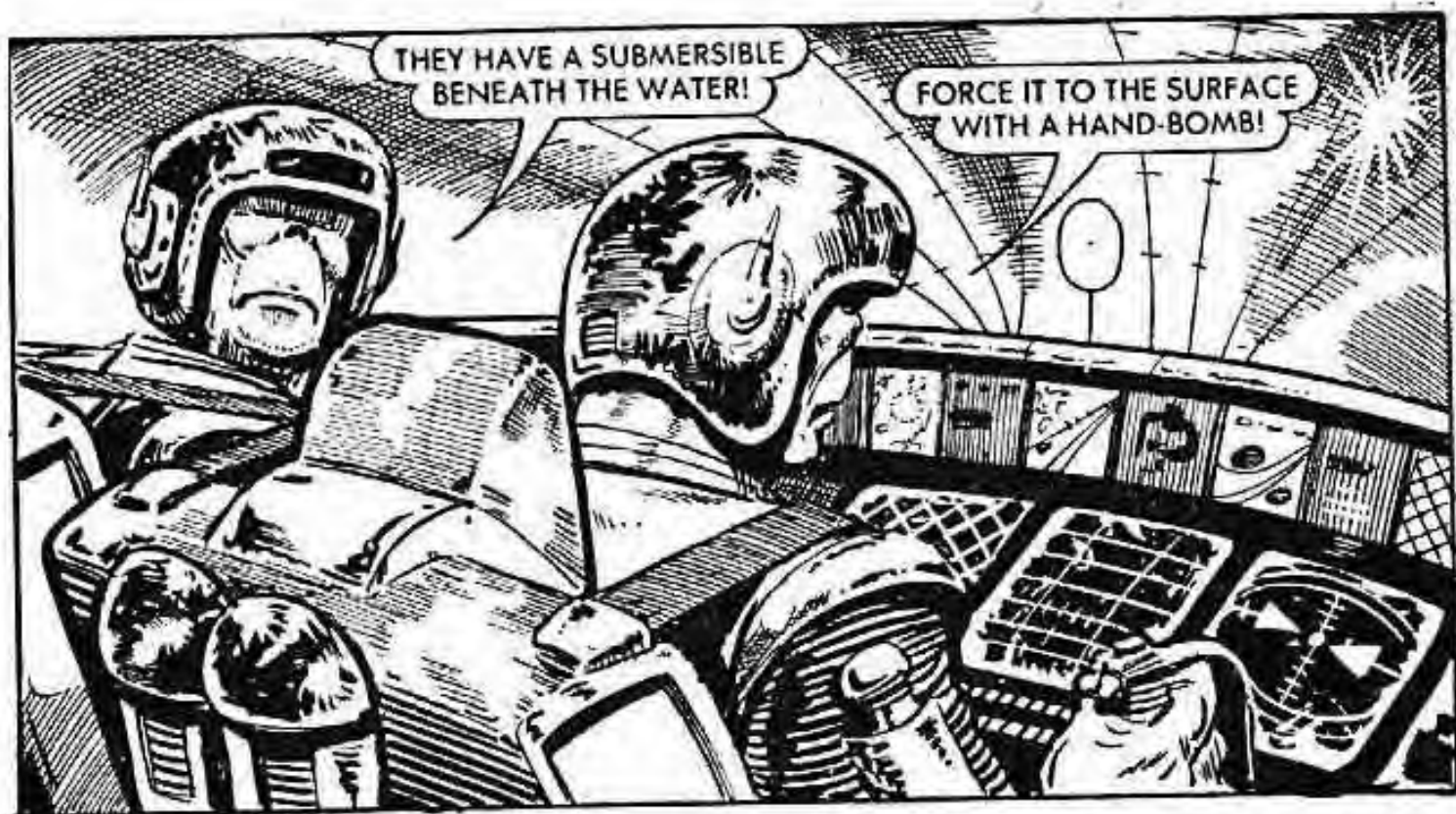
AS THEY HIT THE WATER, THEIR PICK-UP MOVED
OUT FROM ITS HIDING PLACE.

A PRESSURE HATCH OPENED AND THEY SWAM INTO THE VESSEL—



CAN YOU GET US
OUT OF HERE?

GET SOMEONE ON THE
AFT MISSILE TUBES!



BEFORE THE MORBS COULD DROP THEIR BOMB, THE PICK-UP BLASTED FROM THE WATER—





AAIEEE! I DROP
THE BOMB!

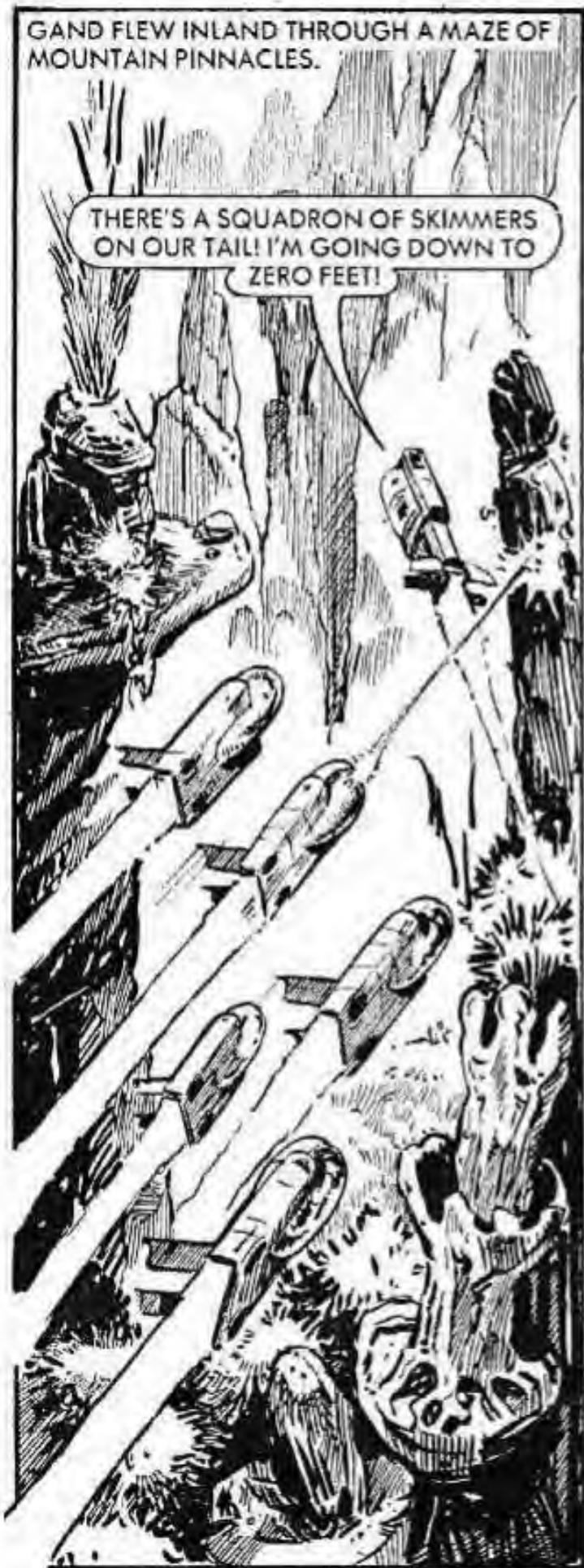
THE SKIMMER DISINTEGRATED—



MAXIMUM SPEED—WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT
TO OUR RENDEZVOUS POINT WITH
ALPHA'S SHIP! THE BLACK HOLE BREAKS
LOOSE VERY SOON!

GAND FLEW INLAND THROUGH A MAZE OF MOUNTAIN PINNACLES.

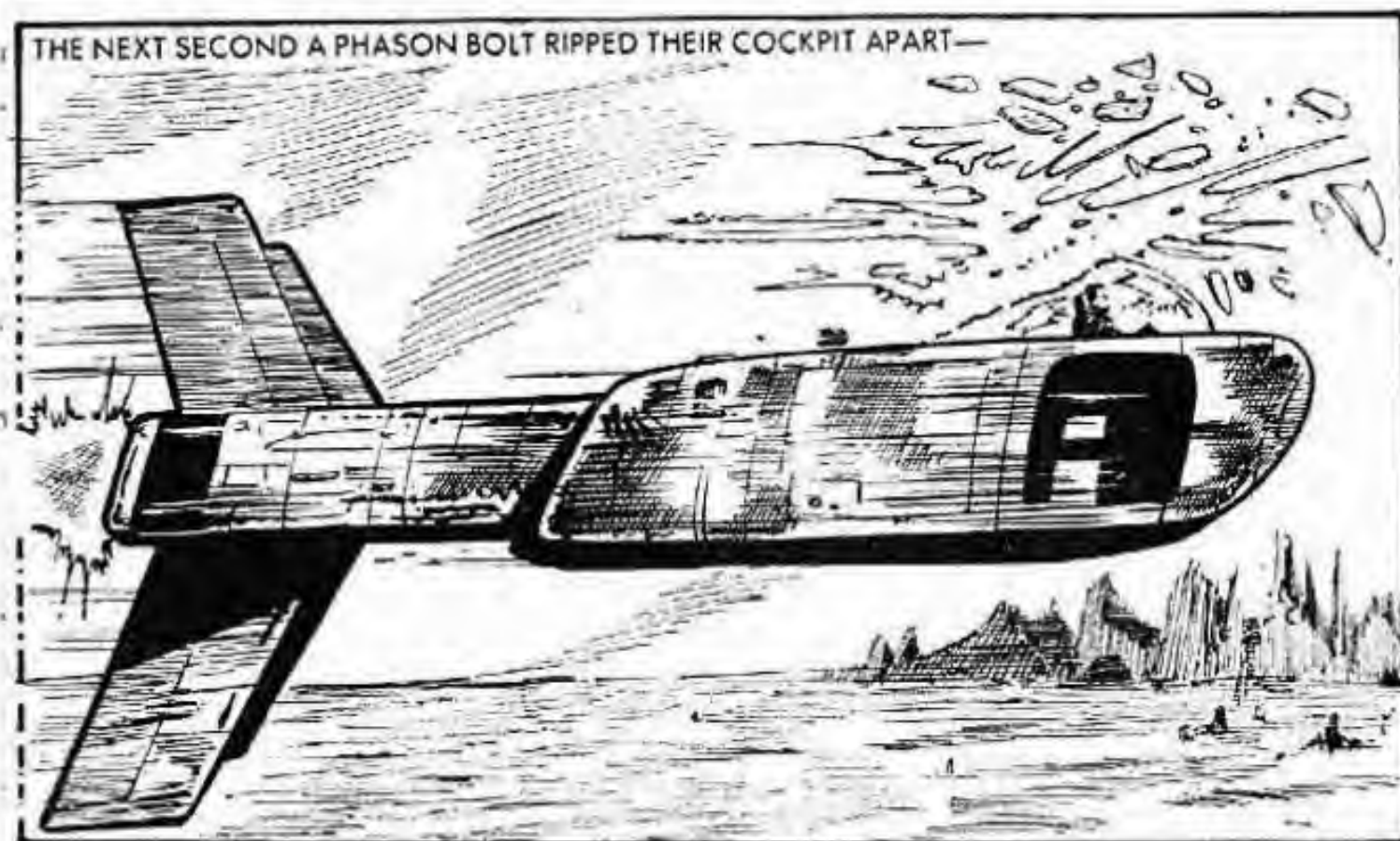
THERE'S A SQUADRON OF SKIMMERS ON OUR TAIL! I'M GOING DOWN TO ZERO FEET!



ONE'S HIT A ROCK! GET THOSE MISSILE TUBES WORKING AND SEE IF YOU CAN STOP THE OTHERS, LEO!





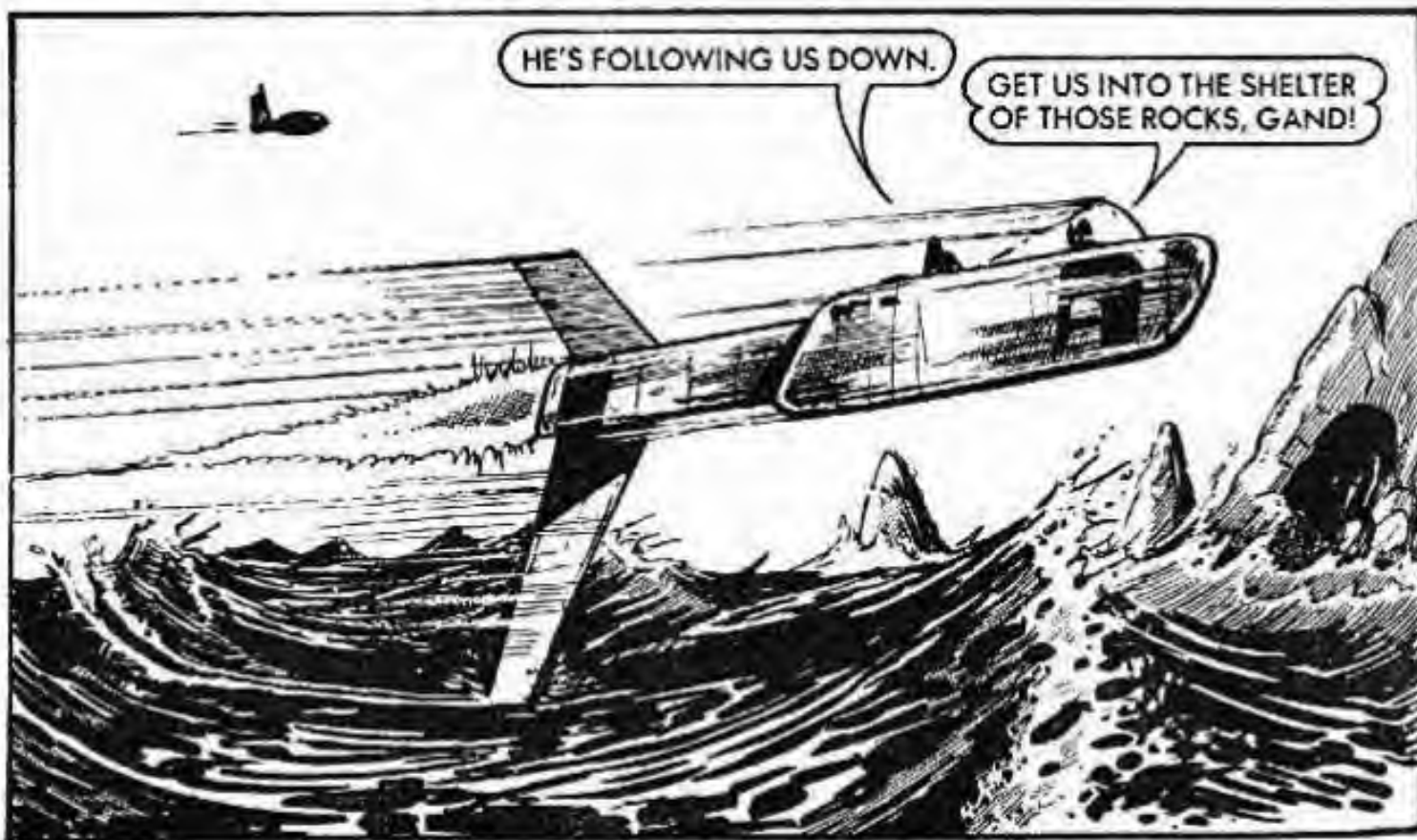


THEY LANDED ON A SEETHING OCEAN IN A SERIES OF BONE CRUNCHING BOUNCES.



HE'S FOLLOWING US DOWN.

GET US INTO THE SHELTER
OF THOSE ROCKS, GAND!



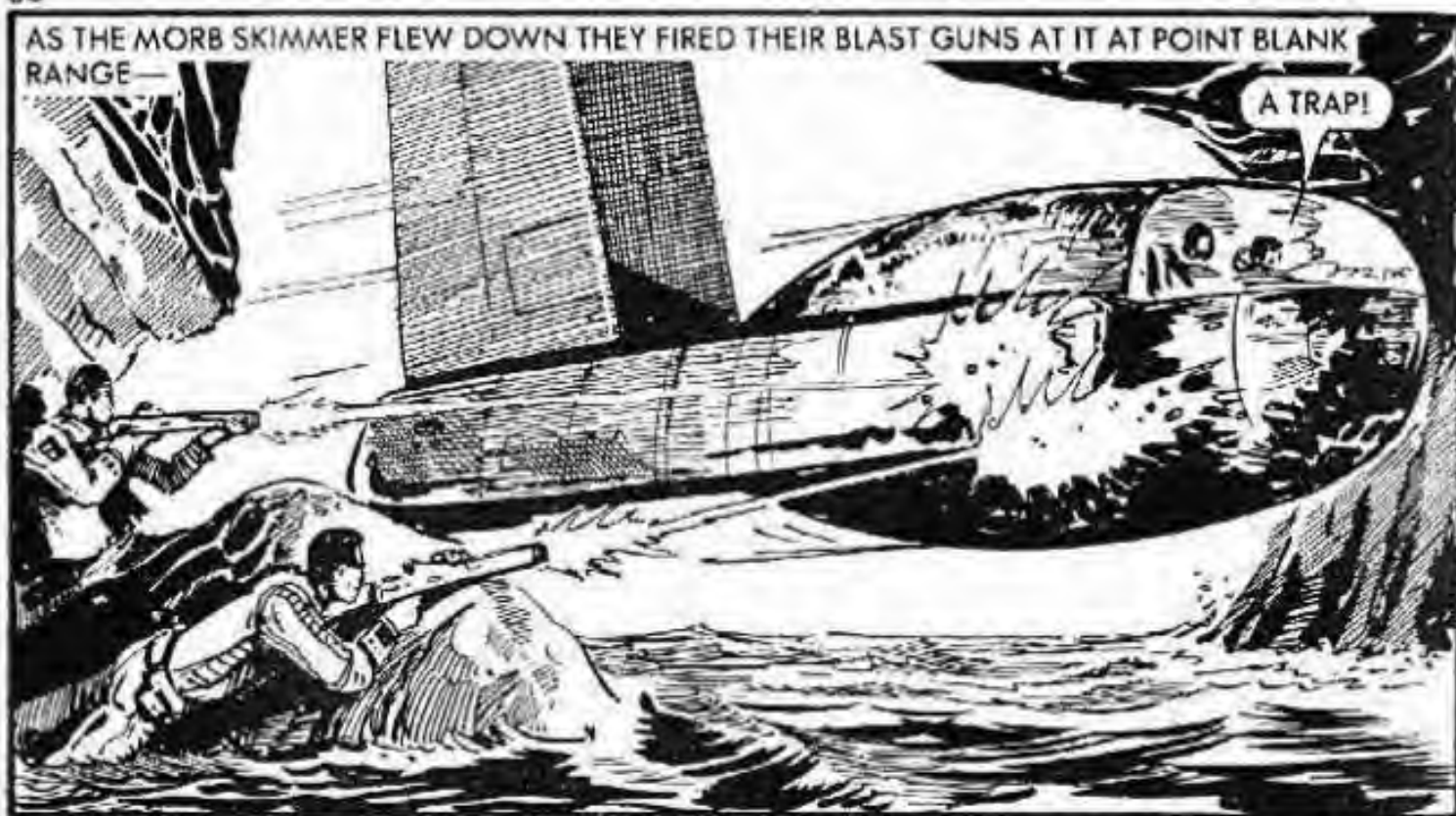
THE PICK-UP ROSE ON EXTENDED HYDRO-FINS AND GAND ROCKETED THE DAMAGED MACHINE ACROSS THE WATER.

THE EARTHMEN ARE HIDING IN THAT TUNNEL. THEY MUST BE UNABLE TO FIGHT!

INSIDE THE TUNNEL, SHARK AND LEO LEAPT FROM THE PICK-UP—

OKAY, GAND, MOVE IT OUT!

AS THE MORB SKIMMER FLEW DOWN THEY FIRED THEIR BLAST GUNS AT IT AT POINT BLANK RANGE—



A TRAP!



THAT'S THE LAST
OF OUR PURSUERS!

NEXT STOP—OUR RENDEZVOUS
WITH THE ALPHA
STARFIGHTER!

TWO HUNDRED MILES FURTHER ON THEY NEARED THE RENDEZVOUS—





THEY SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES ON THE OCEAN BOTTOM FLOATING ON A WATER-FILLED HOLLOW—





THE HUGE, DYING MONSTERS SWARMED INTO THE SHALLOW WATER.

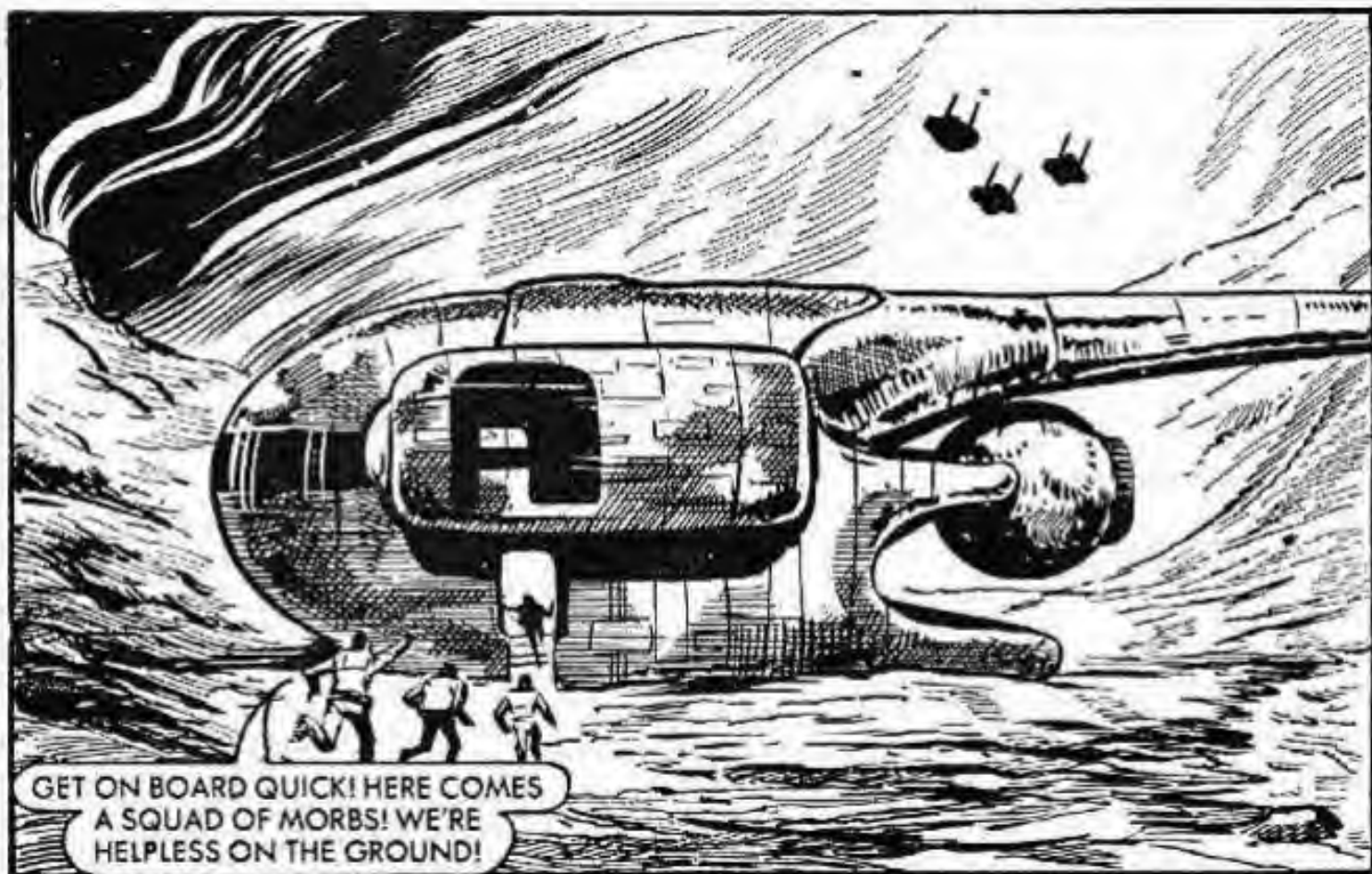


THEY LEAPT FROM ONE WRITHING BODY TO THE NEXT.



AS THEY CLAMBERED ASHORE, A STARFIGHTER DROPPED FROM THE SKY—

THEY'VE MADE IT!



SUDDENLY THE MORB SKIMMERS BEGAN TO TWIST AND TUMBLE IN THE SKY.

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH THEM?

THE HOLE'S SUCKING IN THE ATMOSPHERE!
GET US OUT OF HERE, PILOT!



IT'S DRAGGING
US BACKWARDS!

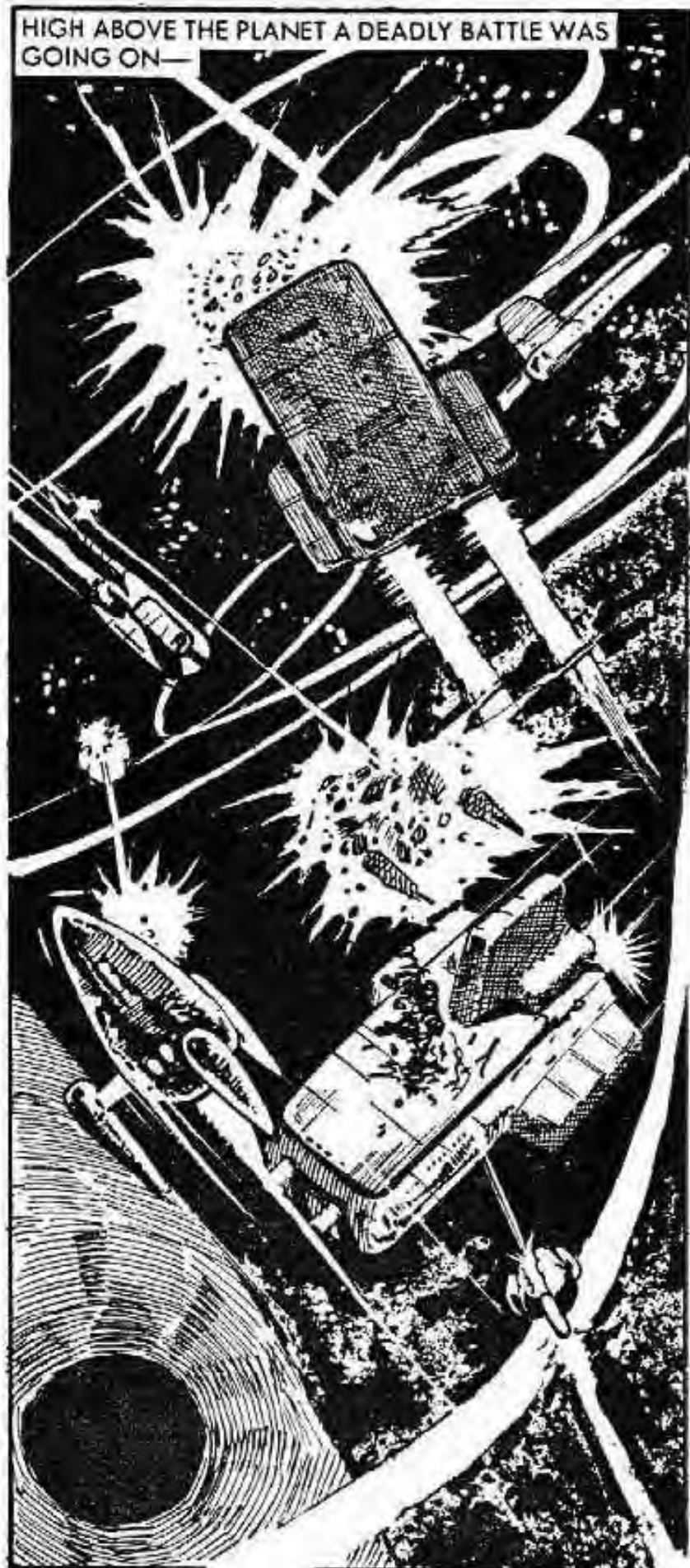
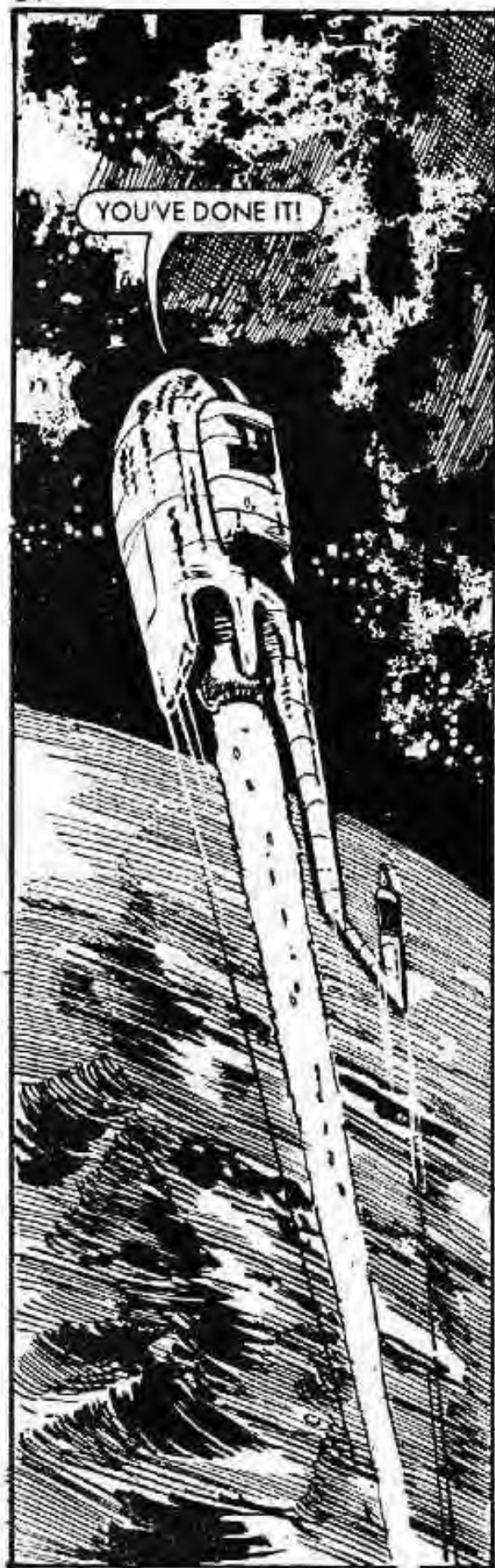
EVERYTHING THAT WAS LOOSE WAS DRAGGED TOWARDS THE BLACK HOLE.



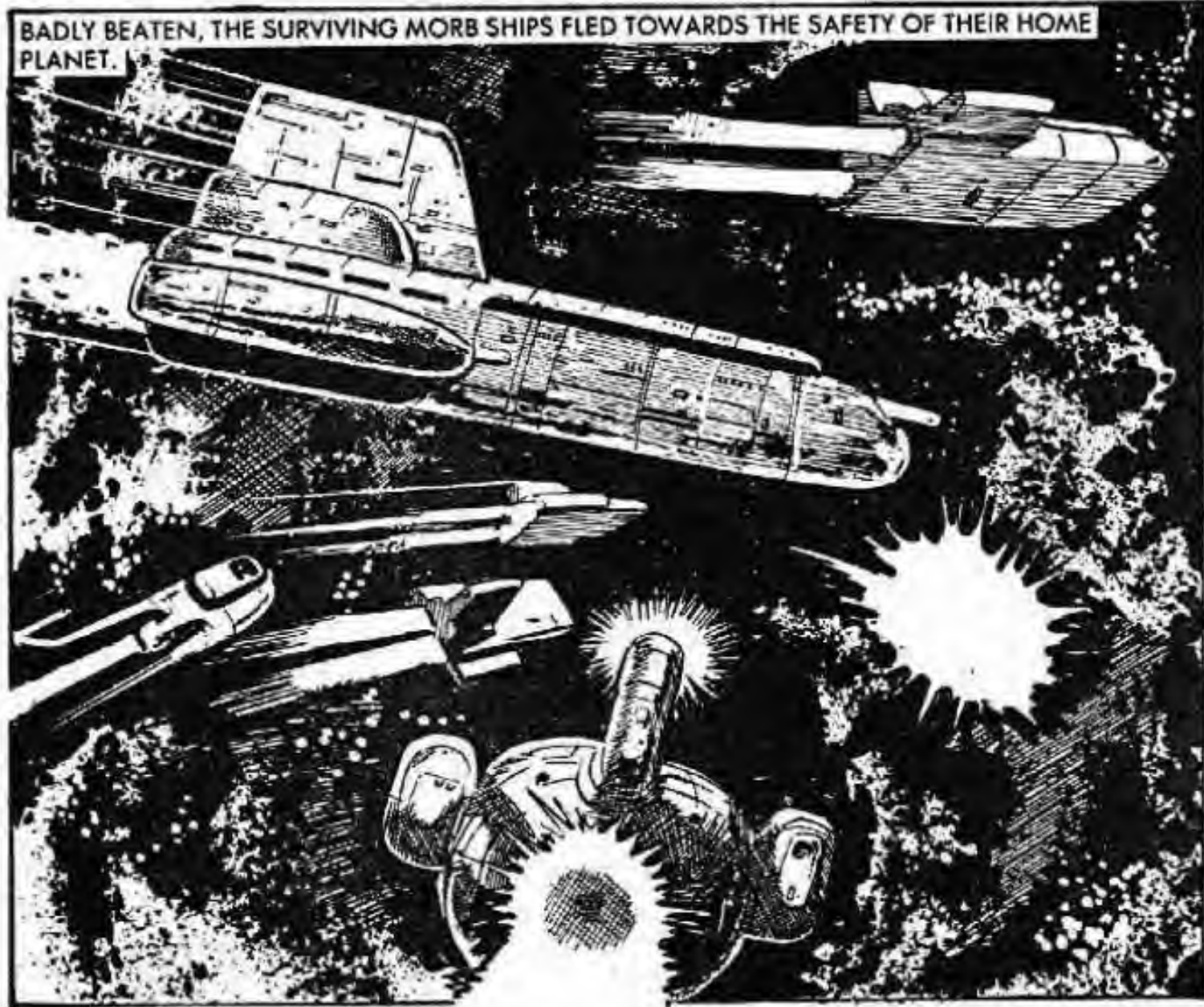
MAXIMUM POWER! SHOVE THAT ENGINE INTO THE RED—OR WE'RE DEAD!

I'M GIVING IT PRE-WARP BOOST—IT COULD BLOW US APART!





BADLY BEATEN, THE SURVIVING MORB SHIPS FLED TOWARDS THE SAFETY OF THEIR HOME PLANET.



THE STAR FORT'S COMING INTO VIEW NOW—WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN HER?

IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA. HAVE YOU SEEN THE PLANET?



STARFORT ALPHA WAS SAFELY PAST WHEN THE BLACK HOLE SWALLOWED UP THE LAST OF THE PLANET.

WE'VE RUINED THEIR PLANS, SIR, BUT THEY STILL HAVE THE SECRET OF THE BLACK HOLE DEVICE.

SO DO WE! WE RAN A SUCCESSFUL COMPUTER SCAN OF THE DEVICE BEFORE YOU DELIVERED IT HERE! WE CAN NOW MAKE OUR OWN! WE HAVE THE ULTIMATE DETERRENT TO AVOID FURTHER WARS WITH THE MORBS!

**DON'T
MISS**

**THIS MONTH'S
OTHER ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 109



THE SWORD OF SOLEK

**NOW
ON
SALE**

STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN II



Vostok 5 was piloted for 4 days 23 hr. 6 min. by Lieutenant Colonel Valery Fyodorovich Bykovsky 28, of the Russian Air Force. His mission began on June 14, 1963. Thirteen years later Bykovsky made his next flight on September 15, as commander of Soyuz 2. This lasted 7 days 21 hr. 54 min. His third flight followed on August 26, 1978 as commander of Soyuz 31, a mission that lasted 7 days 20 hr. 49 min.